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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

A

CHOROGRAPHICAL

AND

STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

THE SEAT OF THE GENERAL

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

WITH AN ENGRAVED PLAN OF THE DISTRICT, AND VIEW OF THE CAPITOL.

Qui manet in Patriâ, et Patriam cognoscere temnit,
Is mihi non civis, sed peregrinus erit.

PARIS:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY SMITH, RUE MONTMORENCY.

To be had also of T. BARROIS, Foreign Bookseller, No. 11, Quai Voltaire, and DELAUNAY, Bookseller, in the Palais-Royal.

1816.

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DEDICATION

TO

MRS. CUSTIS.

MADAM,

IT may not have escaped your recollection, that you kindly honoured me with your advice to occupy my leisure hours, at Washington, in examining the interesting objects of that magnificent situation. You were even pleased to accompany me in some of my excursions, and to honour me by an introduction to your relations and friends, to whom I feel grateful for valuable and unwearied attentions.

I brought to Paris my notes and collection of plants, minerals, and insects, which I had not leisure to examine as long as I exercised my public functions. My labours, however, have been of little avail in struggling against fortune, to whose capricious empire I have been forced to submit[1].

Since the suspension of my consular powers, I have occupied myself chiefly with subjects relating to the United States; and I have prepared for your acceptance this sketch of the District of Columbia, which I flatter myself will serve to perpetuate the fond remembrance of the friendship and confidence with which you have so long honoured me. I wish it were more worthy of the favoured daughter of the illustrious Washington.

[1] Si fortuna volet, fies de *Rhetore Consul.*
Si volet hœc eadem, fies de *Consule Rhetor.*

I have to regret that the difficulty of communication has prevented me from procuring other specimens of the birds and insects of this District, which would have enabled me to complete the nomenclature of objects of natural history. It will give me pleasure to see this deficiency supplied by another, and the errors, into which I may have fallen, corrected with the same spirit which guided my researches. A publication of this kind is now called for, not only by citizens of the United States, but also by foreigners, who, from motives of curiosity or interest, seek minute information concerning the present state of the American metropolis.

Accept, Madam, the homage, esteem, and respect, of

Your truly devoted,

D. B. WARDEN.

distance of ten miles, where they take a

TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA.

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

TERRITORY OF COLUMBIA.

THE Territory of Columbia, which formed a part of the States of Virginia and Maryland, became the permanent seat of Government in the year 1801. This territory, extending on both sides of the Potomac, contains a surface of ten miles square, of which the diagonals are north and south, and east and west. Two of the sides run in a direction from north west to south east, and the two others from north east to south west; so that the angles are each towards one of the Cardinal Points. That of the south is at Fort Columbia, situated at Jones's Point, at the mouth of Hunting Creek, on the left bank of the Potomac. From this point the lines of demarcation run each at an angle of 45° to the distance of ten miles, where they take a

direction perpendicular to the first, forming by their intersection the northern corner.

POTOMAC RIVER.

The Potomac takes its rise in that great chain of mountains known by the name of *Alleghany*, or *Apalaches*, which separate the western waters from those that run into the Atlantic Ocean. This river traverses the territory of Columbia, from which to its mouth, in the Chesapeak Bay, it is navigable for the largest frigate—a distance, in following its course, of about 200 miles. [1]

Mr. Jefferson, in his "Notes on Virginia," has given the following table of the breadth and depth of this river, at different places:—

Embouchure, or mouth . . .	$7\frac{1}{2}$	miles in breadth.
Nomony Bay	$4\frac{1}{2}$	ditto
Acquia.	3	ditto
Hallooing Point	$1\frac{1}{2}$	ditto
Alexandria	$1\frac{1}{4}$	ditto

[1] This river forms the line of boundary between the States of Virginia and Maryland, to the distance of three hundred miles.

DEPTH.

Mouth	7 fathoms.
St. George's Island	5 ditto
Lower Matchodic	4½ ditto
Swan's Point and Alexandria	3 ditto

Thence to the falls, 13 miles above Alexandria, 10 feet.

The tide water flows to the distance of three miles beyond Washington city, where the common tide rises to the height of four feet.

The Potomac, in its course, receives several streams. Of these the most considerable is the Shenandoah, which traverses the Limestone Valley, two hundred and fifty miles in length, and joins the Potomac just before their united streams burst through the chain of mountains called the Blue Ridge.

By a survey of the Potomac, made in 1789, [1] it was ascertained, that at the distance of fifteen miles above the city of Washington, this river is a hundred and forty-three feet higher than at tide-water: that from the mouth of Savage River to Cumberland, a distance of thirty-one miles, the descent is four hundred and forty-five feet, or 14⅓ per mile; and from Fort Cumberland to tide-water, a dis-

[1] By Messrs. Gilpin and Smith.

tance of a hundred and eighty-seven miles, the descent is seven hundred and fifteen feet, or 3.29 per mile.

By a survey, made in 1806[1], at the expence of the Potomac Company, it was ascertained, that the Shenandoah river, from its mouth to Port Republic, has nearly the same breadth during all this distance of two hundred miles, of which the descent is but four hundred and thirty-five feet.

Both these rivers have been lately rendered navigable by means of locks and canals, constructed at very considerable expence. At the great falls of the Potomac, boats pass through a canal one mile in length, six feet deep, and twenty-five feet wide, descending seventy-six feet by means of five locks, each one hundred feet long, and twelve feet wide: on re-entering the Potomac, its course leads to another canal (at the little falls) of the same capacity, and two miles and a half in length, furnished with three other locks, of which the descent is thirty-seven feet to tide-water. The two last locks, at the great falls, cut out of the solid rock, are each a

[1] By Leonard Hasbrough.

hundred feet in length, twelve in breadth, and eighteen in depth, containing about 25,200 cubic feet of water. This work was executed in the space of two years, by a hundred workmen. The other three locks are lined with stone, which is found near the river at the distance of ten miles above the falls. The sluice-gates are of cast-iron, and turn on a pivot fixed in the centre, so that the edge of the gate, when open, is directed towards the stream.

The locks of the little falls, three in number, are constructed of wood, and are each a hundred feet in length, and eighteen in breadth. Mr. Gallatin, late Secretary of the Treasury, from whose report we derive our information on this subject, observes, that this breadth, which consumes much water, is unnecessary. It has been proposed to substitute stone in the place of wood.

Three canals, without locks, have also been completed. The first, below Harper's Ferry, at Shenandoah Falls, where the Potomac breaks through the Blue Ridge, is a mile in length. The second, along the Seneca Falls, is three-quarters of a mile. The third, at

House's Falls, five miles above those of Shenandoah, is fifty yards in length.

The Shenandoah river, from PortRepublic till within eight miles of the Potomac, a distance of nearly two hundred miles, has a gradual descent of about two feet in the mile, except the last eight, of which the descent is ten feet. By means of locks and canals, this river is now navigable from its mouth to the Port called Republic; and it is proposed to extend the navigation, by the middle fork, from this place to the mouth of Lewis's Creek, and thence to Staunton. There are five locks, each a hundred feet long, and twelve feet wide; and six canals, each twenty feet in breadth, and four and a half in depth, extending two thousand four hundred yards. The water of all the locks and canals is supplied by the river.—The boat navigation of the north, or main branch, of the Potomac, now extends to Western Port, near its source, a distance of two hundred and nineteen miles above tide-water.

The south branch of the Potomac is navigable a hundred miles from its junction with

this river, and the north fork about sixty miles.

The Monocacy, which falls into the Potomac, about fifty miles above the Federal City, is navigable forty miles. The Conegocheague Creek, twenty-four miles. Patterson's Creek, the same distance. The Opechon Creek, twenty-five miles, and the Cape Capeon, twenty.

The boats employed for the navigation of these rivers, are seventy-five feet in length, five feet wide, draw eighteen inches water, and carry twenty tons burthen. Two of them, with more than a hundred barrels of flour each, pass the locks of the great falls in the space of an hour, and it rarely happens that the boat or cargo is injured.

The following comparative estimate has been made of the transportation of a barrel of flour by land and by water, to the tide-water of the Potomac:—

From Cumberland, by land . .	$2\frac{1}{4}$ dollars.
By water, including tolls . .	$1\frac{1}{5}$ ditto
From Williamsburg, by land .	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ditto
By water, including tolls . .	1 ditto
From Harper's Ferry, by land .	$1\frac{1}{2}$ ditto
By water	1 ditto

If, by clearing the bed of the river, its depth were increased, and more boats were employed, it is computed that the price would be brought to one half of the expense of land carriage.

The Potomac Company, by whom this useful navigation has been opened, was incorporated for this purpose, by Acts of the States of Maryland and Virginia, passed in the year 1784[1], which authorised the fund to be distributed in shares, and raised by subscription. The original capital, or stock, consisted of seven hundred and one shares, which, at four hundred and forty-four dollars and four ninths, the value of each, amounted to three hundred and eleven thousand five hundred and sixty dollars. Of these shares, two hundred and twenty are the property of the State of Maryland, and seventy of Virginia. The Company has the power of increasing the capital by additional shares. The particular management and inspection of the work are confided to a President and five Directors, elected for a term

[1] The charter for the navigation of the Shenandoah river, was granted by the legislature of Virginia, in 1803.

not exceeding three years, and invested with powers to appoint the treasurer, clerk, and other minor officers. The share-holders meet once a year, and vote according to the number of shares, a hundred of which constitute a *quorum*, to whom all proceedings are communicated. Every ten shares, and every fifth share above ten, give a vote. The shares of defaulters are sold publicly. Foreigners, not naturalised, may be subscribers. The fund is still unproductive, as the annual amount of tolls, or tonnage, has been expended on the further improvements of the navigation. In 1807, the expenses of that of the Potomac amounted to 375,648 dollars; of the Shenandoah, to 65,000; and of the Conegocheague Creek to 500 dollars. Within the last year, a further sum of a hundred thousand was voted by the Company. The annual repairs, when the work shall have been completed, have been estimated at twenty thousand dollars. In the course of one year, ending the first of August, 1807, the amount of tolls on articles which passed the locks of the Potomac, was upwards of fifteen thousand dollars; but in the two following years there was a falling off, that of 1808 amount-

ing only to 9,980, and that of 1809, to 8,814 dollars.

The following is a statement of the quantity and species of articles which were transported down the *Shenandoah* and *Potomac* in the course of eleven months, terminating the 1st of July, 1811.[1]

27 hogsheads of sugar.
118,076 barrels of flour.
3,768 barrels of whiskey.
463 bushels of wheat.
3,600 bushels of maize.
25 tons of bar-iron.
1,313 tons of pig-iron and castings; also, ship-timber, rye, flax-seed, hemp, butter, oats, clover seed, arms, staves, etc. ofwhich the toll, on the Potomac, amounted to 21,130 dollars; on the Shenandoah, to 1,529—in all to 22,659 dollars. This was more than double the toll of any preceding year. The number of boats employed was thirteen hundred. When the navigation of the Potomac and its tributary streams shall have been completed, the shares of this stock will no doubt become very productive to the holders.

[1] We are indebted to General Mason for these minute details.

In a national point of view this work will be of great advantage in accelerating the progress of agriculture, arts, and manufactures, diminishing the price of carriage, and facilitating the exchange of the productions and commodities of the countries watered by those rivers. The treasures of vast mountainous and woody tracts, hitherto unknown from the difficulty of communication, will be rendered accessible and inviting to every speculation of research, knowledge, or lucre. Much remains to be done. The banks of the rivers are still overhung with loose rocks and trees which impede the navigation, especially when by the melting of the ice and heavy fall of rains, the streams become resistless torrents which carry away every thing they meet in their boisterous course.

The distance from Washington to the falls of the Potomac on the Virginia side is about twenty miles. By the bridge, above Georgetown, near the Little-Falls, it was five miles shorter; but, some years ago, this bridge was destroyed, by the pressure of accumulated ice and water after a sudden thaw, and has not been since repaired. The wild and romantic scenery of the *Great Falls*, which are seen most to advantage from the Virginia

side, is scarcely to be equalled. There is a stupendous projecting rock covered with cedar, where one may sit and gaze at the waters dashing with impetuosity over the rugged surface. At the close of winter, vast masses of ice, rolling over the rocks with hideous crash, present a scene truly sublime. To those whose curiosity leads them to visit this terrific sport of nature, it may be useful to mention, that at a small distance, M. de Caraman[1], and the writer of this account, found a hospitable cabin that afforded oats to their horses, and eggs, milk, and ham for themselves. Several delicious springs issue from a neighbouring hill, which commands an enchanting prospect. The trees which abound here most are willow, birch, cedar, and oaks, of different species. The yellow jessamine[2] is of a prodigious size. The prickly pear[3] grows on the banks of the canal. White hore-hound[4] and sweet-fennel[5], of which there is great plenty, are employed by the inhabitants for medicinal drinks. The odour

[1] Then Secretary of the French Legation in the United States, now *chargé d'affaires* at the Hague.

[2] Bignonia radicans.

[3] Cactus opuntia.

[4] Marrubium vulgare.

[5] Fæniculum dulce.

of aromatic plants seems to be much stronger here than in the Low-Lands. Of wild cherries and strawberries there is great redundance. The banks of the river are infested by different species of snakes, particularly the black[1], rattle[2] and copper-head snake[3].

OF THE SOIL.

The surface of the district of Washington is beautifully irregular and diversified; in some parts level, in others undulated or hilly, and intersected by deep vallies. The soil is so various that it is not easy to give an exact idea of its composition. On the level banks of the Potomac there is a deep alluvion formed by the depositions of this river, and containing fragments of primitive mountains, pyrites, gravel and sand, shells, and the remains of vegetable substances. In digging wells, at the city of Washington, trees, in a sound state, have been discovered at different depths, from six to forty-eight feet, near the *New-Jersey* avenue, and also at the place

[1] Coluber constrictor. [2] Crotalus horridus.
[3] Coluber crythogaster.

called the Twenty Buildings. The surface of the wood is of a deep black colour, owing, as has been conjectured, to the action of the sulphuric acid of decomposed pyrites. The Senator *Volney*[1] notices a stratum of black mud, interspersed with wood, thrown up from the depth of eighteen feet from a well made by Mr. *Law*. Near *Bladensburg*, there is an extensive vein of *carbonated wood*. The stone of which the public buildings are constructed is found to inclose leaves of trees and ligneous fragments; and it undergoes a considerable contraction by exposure to the atmosphere. A large tree, with its roots entire, was lately thrown up near the Seven Buildings, and another of the same description in forming the canal.

Mr. Godon, in his "*Observations to serve for the mineralogical map of the State of Maryland,*" observes, that *Rock Creek* separates the primitive from the alluvial soil. In the former *gneiss* abounds, which is succeeded by the *amphibolic* rock, or *grunstein*. The *gneiss* contains small crystallised cubes

[1] Tableau du Climat et du Sol des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, 2 vol. in 8vo. 1803.

of magnetic iron, veins of feldspath and quartz of an opaque white colour. The rock of the *Great Falls* of the *Potomac* consists chiefly of micaceous schist—*mica schistoide* of Hauy, or *glimmer schiefer* of the Germans; and contains grains of iron which attract the magnetic needle.

The stone, with which the basons of the *Potomac* canal are lined, is a species of sandstone (*grès*) similar to that known by the name of *grès des houillières.*[1] The rock employed to form the foundation, or base of the houses of Washington, is a species of *gneiss,* composed of feldspath, quartz and mica, of a leafy texture, owing to the abundance and disposition of the *mica.* It contains primitive sulphurous iron, and also particles of the same metal, which are attracted by the needle. At *Fort-Washington,* now *Fort-Warburton,* there is a ferruginous clay, known by the name of *bol,* which is employed to dye cloth and thread of a reddish colour. This substance, when heated, attracts the magnetic needle.

The moulds of petrified shells of the genus

[1] Sandstone of Coalbeds.

arca, weighing several pounds, have been lately dug up at this place.

The following is the temperature of the *Potomac* river and of springs in the district of Washington, taken in the month of July, 1811.

Water of the Potomac river	85 Fahr.
Bladensburg chalybeate spring.	64
Chalybeate near the habitation of M. H. Smith	62
His well, at the depth of 73 feet,	57
Spring in Mr. Jones's house	58

OF THE CLIMATE AND DISEASES.

It is a prevailing opinion throughout the United States, that the climate of the district of Washington is unhealthy; but this opinion is formed on prejudice, for it is certain, that in no season is it visited by habitual or endemical disease. The best proof of the salubrity of a place is the longevity of its inhabitants; and we recollect to have seen several natives, always residents of this district, whose features and general appearance indicated a very advanced age. Mr. Blodget has, we know not from what *data,* estimated

the annual deaths, in Washington city, at 1 of 48 to 50 persons; in New-York, at 1 of 44 to 50; at Baltimore, 1 of 43 to 49; at Charleston, 1 of 35 to 40: from which it results, that of all these places Washington is the healthiest; and in this respect it has evidently an advantage over the great cities of Europe, where the annual deaths are as one to 23, and in towns as 1 to 28. In a new city where there is a constant influx of inhabitants, it is difficult to keep such registers of deaths as would be necessary to ascertain with precision the mean term of human life.

It may be observed, that during autumn, bilious fever sometimes prevails, but, at this season, it is common to other parts of the United States. In winter, chronical diseases often occur, occasioned by the sudden changes of weather, which check perspiration; but these are not confined to this city. The rays of the sun reflected from a sandy surface with increased heat, have an injurious effect upon health; but in other places, with a similar soil and situation, this evil is also felt. In July, the heat is often oppressive. On the 4th of this month, the anniversary of Ame-

rican independance, two persons, one of whom had just descended from the Baltimore stage, fell down and expired, in consequence of drinking cold water in a state of perspiration. At this season, it would be useful to have the instructions of medical humane societies on this subject posted on the doors of taverns.

The intermitting fever, which is confined to particular spots, seems to originate from the exhalations of marshes and borders of stagnant waters; though it is a curious fact, and worthy of the attention of physicians, that families, who live in the neighbourhood of these places, enjoy good health, while others, who inhabit the summit of an adjacent hill, are victims to this annual returning malady. When marshy places become dry, fishes, insects, and decaying vegetable substances, exposed to the action of a burning sun, generate those gazeous *miasms*, which, absorbed by the body, produce weakness, sickness, and death. Ascending, by their lightness, they are probably carried by the winds to the neighbouring eminence, where settling, they form a sickly and noxious atmosphere.

This disease is charmed as it were by

arsenic pills; but, in every case, the constitution is injured, and prepared for other more fatal maladies by the application of this metallic poison. At Washington, the bilious has sometimes degenerated into a putrid fever; but this may have been owing more to unskilful management, and to want of cleanliness, than to the climate. One of the powers of the corporation, truly important in its object, is to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases. How this is to be effected is not explained. Great benefits might result from the constant removal of all putrid substances, from draining marshes and planting trees. The condition of the poor might be ameliorated, and also that of slaves, whose place of repose is generally a cellar, the dampness of which is favourable to the propagation of contagion.

Much indisposition might be avoided by wearing warm clothing till the beginning of summer, and resuming it early in autumn. The north west winds, which prevail in winter, are very penetrating; and the weather is subject to sudden and frequent changes, particularly in spring and at the close of autumn. The facts stated by Mr. Jefferson

in his "Notes on Virginia", shew that this climate has undergone a considerable change; for it is observed by this author, "that in 1780, the Chesapeak Bay was solid from its head to the mouth of the Potomac. At Annapolis, where it is five miles and a quarter over, between the nearest points of land, the ice was from five to seven inches thick quite across, so that loaded carriages went over it." "The extremes of heat and cold, of 6° and 98°, were distressing." We were informed, by Mr. Gabriel Duval,[1] that near the close of Jan. 1772, the snow, in the district of Washington, was generally three feet in depth; and that in some places, it was drifted to the height of even ten, or twelve feet. During the last ten years, the average depth has not been more than eight or ten inches.

The summer is sometimes visited by tremendous storms of thunder, lightning, and hail. On the 10th of June, 1811, there was one of this description, which continued about a quarter of an hour, and destroyed every pane of glass of the windows in the

[1] Formerly Comptroller of the Public Treasury, and now Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States.

north side of the houses in the town of Alexandria. Some of the hail-stones were said to weigh four ounces.

Awful peals of thunder, sharp lightning, torrents of rain, and the sudden destruction of all the windows in the direction of the storm, were sufficient to dismay even stubborn breasts. On the 11th of June, 1811, a person named *John Bowie,* standing at a door in Alexandria, was killed by lightning: several others were, at the same time, struck; but gradually recovered by means of bleeding, and immersion in cold water. At *West-End,* near Alexandria, a woman, Mrs. Wry, was killed by lightning; while a child which she held in her arms, received no injury. At Ravensworth, nine miles south-west of Alexandria, a negro, and several horses in the stable were also destroyed. No symptom of life appeared after the stroke. It is worthy of observation, that most persons in the United-States, struck by lightning, were standing, or sitting near a door, or window. The utility of electric conductors is demonstrated beyond all doubt, and though their expence is inconsiderable, they are not in general use.

A residence of a few months at Washing-

ton, in 1811, enabled us to make the following thermometrical observations, and we have to regret that the table is not more extensive and complete.

1811.	9 A. M.	3 P. M.	9 P. M.
June 15	80°	81°	
16	77½	86	
17	77		
18	75	84	
19	70	82	
21	78	84	
22	78	88	
23	81	88	80
24	84	84	
28	75½	80	
29	75	81	
30	75½	75	
31	70	75	
July— 1	70	75	75
2	77	86	80
3	79	92	98
4	83	92	86
5	86	93	85
7	88	89	79
9	88	88	74
10	83	79	
11		77	
12	68	77	72
13	74	80	73
14	73	82	78
15	78	86	77
16	75	77	74
17	78	78	75
18	76	82	
19	78		75

The following observations were communicated to us by Gabriel Duval, esq.

1807.

July 17.—89° greatest temperature.

Oct. 14.—58° A. M. at 2 P. M. 88°.

19.—A severe frost, which destroyed garden-vines.

1808.

June 22.—88° greatest temperature.

28.—89½ ditto

29.—91½ ditto

30.—89½ ditto

July ——91 greatest temperature.

About the close of July, musquitoes, ants, and various insects give great annoyance. On the borders of the *Potomac* the light of houses, after the close of day, attracts swarms of ephemeral insects of aquatic origin, of different size, and every variety of colour. One evening about ten o'clock we saw the chimney of Mr. Jones's[1] parlour completely covered with them.

FISHERIES.

The following fishes inhabit the *River Potomac* at and near Washington.

[1] Attorney General of the District.

We have added the mean weight of each as communicated by Mr. Blodget.

Sturgeon—Accipenser sturio, from	40 to 150lbs.	
Rock-fish—Sparrus calocephalus .	1 to 75	
Shad—Clupea alosa	6	
—— white		
—— taylor	3	
—— winter	0	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Gar—Esox Belone	6	
—— green	0	2 oz.
Eel.		
—Fresh water—Muræna anguilla	3	
— common	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
— tide water eel	0	
Carp—Cyprinus carpio . . .	3	
Herring—Clupea harengus .	2	
Pike—Esox lucius	2	
Perch—Perca fluviatilis.		
——— white	1	
——— yellow	1	
——— sun	$0\frac{1}{8}$	
Mullet—Mugil cephalus.		
——— fine scaled	1	
——— coarse scaled	$0\frac{1}{2}$	
Smelt—Salmo Eperlanus.		

In a distance of about a hundred miles above, and below Washington, four hundred thousand barrels of herrings are caught an-

nually, of which a considerable quantity are cured, and exported.

They are salted without being gutted, and the blood mixes with the brine, which in a few days is poured off, when the herrings are taken out, washed, and salted anew. The fisheries continue during the month of April. In 1768, an act was passed by the legislature, which, in 1798, became a permanent law, not to destroy young fish by wears, or dams. The penalty is twenty pounds of the currency of that time. Another act was passed, in 1796, to prevent persons from beating the *Patuxent* river with cords, or poles, from the commencement of February, to that of June. The penalty of the offence, if a white person, is a hundred dollars: if a slave, he is to receive ten lashes on his back, unless redeemed by his master by the payment of ten dollars.

POPULATION.

The population of the territory of Columbia, in 1810, amounted to 24,023. That of the city was 8,208 : of Georgetown, 4,948;

of Alexandria, 7,227; of Washington County, exclusive of towns, 2,315; that of Alexandria County, 1,325. In the year 1800, the whole population of the district was 14,093; from which it results, that the increase in ten years is nearly ten thousand. That of the city has been much greater in proportion. Congress has wisely permitted foreigners, not citizens, to hold lands within the territory, which will powerfully contribute to its population and improvement. The constitution and laws of the States of Maryland and Virginia served as models of the liberal principles of citizenship established at the metropolis of the American republic. The act of naturalization of the former is as follows: "Whereas the increase of a people is a means to advance the wealth and strength of this state, and whereas many foreigners from the lenity of our government, the security afforded by our constitution and laws to civil and religious liberty, the mildness of our climate, the fertility of our soil, and the advantages of our commerce, may be induced to come and settle in this state, if they were made partakers of the advantages and privileges which

the natural born subjects of the state do enjoy, etc."

In 1797, it was enacted, "that all foreigners who emigrated and settled in Maryland, before the month of July 1799, and have continued therein, they and their descendants shall be deemed to have been and to be citizens of this state, as if they had been natural born subjects."

Foreign tradesmen, artificers, and manufacturers, having taken the oath of citizenship, are free from taxes for five years.

Nearly one half of the population of Washington is of Irish origin. The labouring class is chiefly Irish, and many of them have no acquaintance with the English language. They have cut the canal, made, and repaired the streets, and executed most of the manual labour of the city[1].

[1] In one of the streets of Washington we observed a sign-board, with the following inscription:—"Peter Rodgers, sadler, from the green fields of Erin and tyranny, to the green streets of Washington and liberty.—See Copenhagen; view the seas, 'tis all blockade—'tis all a blaze. The seas shall be free—Yankee Doodle, keep it up."—It appears that this sadler is a native of Cork, from which he was banished at the age of seventy-

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The city of Washington is situated on the Potomac, at the confluence of this river with its *Eastern-branch*, which formerly bore the name of *Anna kostia*, in lat. 38° 55′ north, and in longitude 76° 55′ from Greenwich.

From Washington to Philadelphia, the distance is..... 144 miles.
To Baltimore..... 43
To Richmond..... 132
To Annapolis..... 40
To Monticello..... 124

The meridional line, which passes through the *Capitol*, was drawn by Mr. *Ellicot*. The longitude was calculated by Mr. *Lambert*.

A celebrated astronomer, the baron Lindenau, to whom we communicated this calculation, was pleased to favor us with the

five, for no other reason, as he states, than that of having worn a "*green-coloured coat*," and vented sighs for his "*dear native country*." This sign-board was attacked by some malicious hand, and the poor old man, deeply mortified at this outrage in a land of freedom, published his complaint in the *National Advertiser*, offering a dollar, (it was all he possessed), as a reward for bringing the offender to justice.

following observations concerning it. "On the 20th of October, 1804, the immersion of y Plej. was observed at Washington at $9^h\ 22'\ 36'',32$ (true time): from this the calculator deduces the conjunction of the moon and the star at $10^h\ 42',\ 59'',277$. Calculating the place of the moon by the tables, he finds this ☌, or conjunction for Greenwich, at $15^h\ 5',\ 35'',556$, and hence the west longitude of Washington equal to $5^h,\ 7',\ 36'',\ 279$. This calculation is perfectly just; nevertheless the longitude which results from it remains uncertain, and may be defective by several minutes of the arc. 1.° The calculator supposes the right ascension of y Plej. 53°, 59′, 6″,27. —The declination 23°, 29′, 45″, 14, whereas the catalogue of Piazzi generally considered as the best, gives the right ascension 53°, 58′, 30″, 9. The declination 23°, 29′, 34″, 5. 2° The conjunction for Greenwich having been calculated, not by real observation, but by the places of the moon taken from the Tables of Mason, perhaps incorrect from 10′ to 15′, an error may result from 20′ to 36′ on the time of this ☌, or conjunction, and also on the longitude of Washington. Unfortunately I have not been able to find an ob-

servation made in Europe corresponding with this, which would have enabled me to repeat the calculation, and establish the longitude of Washington above-mentioned.

From the observatory of Leeberg, 10th October, 1812. B. LINDENAU.

In 1809, Mr. Lambert presented a memorial to the House of Representatives on the establishment of a first meridian for the United-States at the city of Washington. The year following, this memorial was submitted to a Select Committee of Congress, of which Dr. Mitchill was Chairman, who recommended that provision should be made by law for determining, with the greatest accuracy, the distance between the city of Washington and Greenwich in England, and that proper instruments should be procured. This Committee observed, "that situated as we are in this western hemisphere, more than three thousand miles from any fixed or known meridian, it would be proper, in a national point of view, to establish a first meridian for ourselves; and that measures should be taken for the eventual establishment of such a meridian in the United States; that no place perhaps is more proper than the seat of go-

vernment." This subject was referred to the secretary of state, who, in a report, addressed to the House of Representatives, in July, 1812, strongly recommended the establishment of a first meridian, and an Observatory, at Washington; "that the former has become, by the usage of nations, an appendage, if not an attribute, of sovereignty."

The origin of Washington, like that of several ancient cities, is already wrapt in fable. The story is, that a few families had lived there in rural solitude for nearly a century, of which one was established on the borders of the *Columbia* Creek, from whom it received the name of *Tiber;* and the place of residence was called *Rome.* History may hereafter record the belief, that this simple farmer, endowed with prophetical powers, foresaw the destinies of the Columbian territory.

Travellers, from different motives, have given very unfaithful pictures of the city of Washington. The buildings are described to be in a state of dilapidation. The inhabitants are represented as a "half-organised, half-minded race;" although it is well known, that they came from various regions

of the United States, and from different countries of Europe, bringing with them qualities of mind and body, and topographical habits, which prevent the possibility of any characteristic trait, except in the imagination of the poet.

The following poetical description is from the pen of *Moor*:—

" In fancy now beneath the twilight gloom,
Come, let me lead thee o'er this modern Rome,
Where tribunes rule, where dusky Davi bow,
And what was *Goose-Creek* once, is *Tiber* now.
This fam'd metropolis, where fancy sees
Squares in morasses, obelisks in trees;
Which travelling fools, and gazetteers adorn
With shrines unbuilt, and heroes yet unborn;
Tho' nought but wood and ——— they see,
Where streets should run, and sages *ought* to be.*

It is scarcely possible to imagine a situation more beautiful, healthy, and convenient, than that of Washington. The gentle undulated surface throws the water into such various directions, as affords the most agreeable assemblage. The rising hills, on each side of the Potomac, are truly picturesque; and as the river admits the largest frigates, their sails, gliding through the majestic trees which adorn its banks, complete the scenery.

The city extends from north west to south east about four miles and a half, and from north east to south west about two miles and a half. The public buildings occupy the most elevated and convenient situations, to which the waters of the Tiber Creek may be easily conducted, as well as to every other part of the city, not already watered by springs.

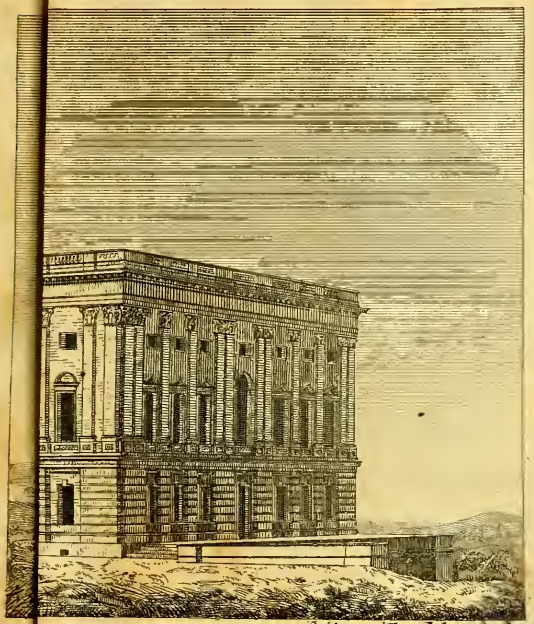
The streets run from north to south, and from east to west, crossing each other at right angles, with the exception of fifteen, that point to the State of which each bears the name. The capitol commands the streets called the Maryland, Delaware, and Pensylvania avenues; the President's house, those of Vermont, New York, and Connecticut; and all these different intersections form eleven hundred and fifty squares. The Pensylvania street, or avenue, which stretches in a direct line from the President's house to the capitol, is a mile in length, and a hundred and sixty feet in breadth. That of the narrowest streets is from ninety to a hundred feet, which will give a fine appearance to the city; but in a region where the summer sun is so intensely hot, and the winter winds so

severely cold, narrow streets, affording shade and shelter, would be of great utility.

The plan of the city, of which we have prefixed an engraving,[1] is universally admired. The most eligible places have been selected for public squares and public buildings.

The capitol is situated on a rising ground, which is elevated about eighty feet above the tide-water of the Potomac, and sixty or seventy above the intermediate surface.—This edifice will present a front of six hundred and fifty feet, with a colonade of two hundred and sixty feet, and sixteen Corinthian columns thirty-one feet and a half in height. The elevation of the dome is a hundred and fifty feet; the basement story twenty; the entablement seven; the parapet six and a half; the centre of the building, from the east to the west portico, is two hundred and forty feet. The cieling is vaulted, and the whole edifice is to be of solid masonry of hewn stone, which, in appearance, resembles that known by the name

[1] There is a plan by Major L'Enfant, engraved at the expence of the Government, on the scale of a hundred poles to an inch.



Détournelle del et Sculp.

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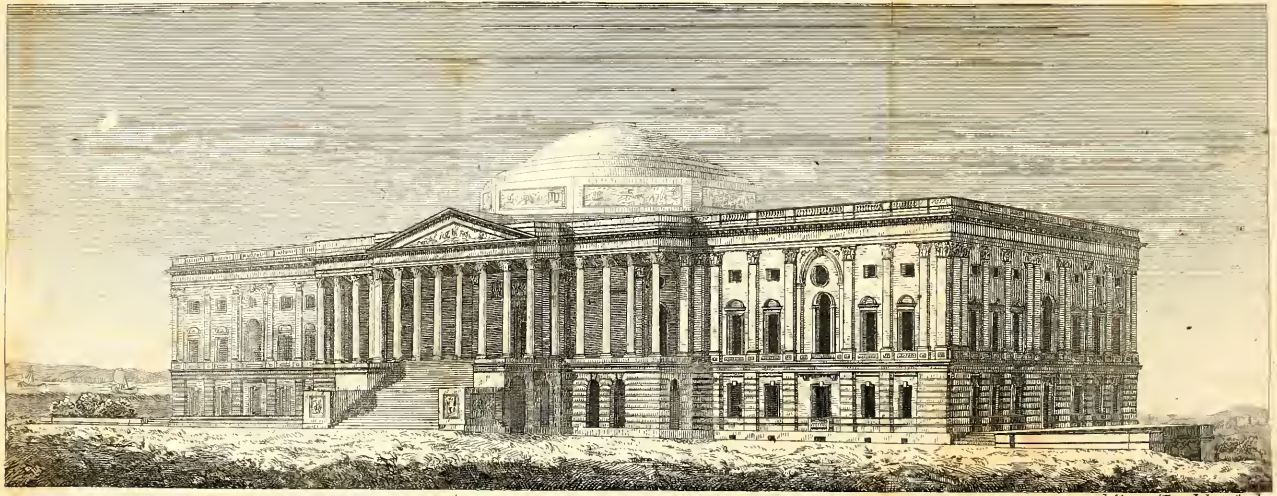

Delvaunelle del et Sculp.

The Capitol - Washington f.

of the Portland-stone. The centre, or great body of the building, is not yet commenced, but the two wings are nearly finished. The north wing, which contains the senate chamber, has the form of a segment, with a double-arched dome, and Ionic pillars. It is adorned with portraits of Louis XVI. and Mary Antoinette. Under the senate chamber are commodious rooms for the library, and the judiciary courts of the United States. The south wing, containing the hall of representatives, and rooms for transacting business by committees, is of a circular form, adorned with twenty-four Corinthian pillars, behind which are galleries and lobbies for the accommodation of those who listen to the debates.

The foundation being laid in 1794, the north wing was finished in 1801, the south wing in 1807. The interior was originally of wood, which soon decayed; and to substitute stone, it became necessary to change the whole arrangement. This magnificent edifice is the joint composition of several artists, Thornton, Latrobe,[1] Hallet, and Hatfield.

[1] The view of this building, which we have presented, was engraved after the drawing of this artist.

From the Capitol there is a fine view of the river Potomac, of Georgetown, and Alexandria.

The President's house consists of two stories, and is a hundred and seventy feet in length, and eighty-five in breadth. It resembles Leinster-House, in Dublin, and is much admired. Even the Poet Moor styles it a "grand edifice," a "noble structure." The view from the windows fronting the river is extremely beautiful.

The Public Offices, the Treasury, Department of State, and of War, are situated in a line with, and at the distance of four hundred and fifty feet from the President's house.—These buildings, of two stories, have a hundred and twenty feet in front, sixty in breadth, and sixteen feet in height, and are ornamented with a white stone basement, which rises six or seven feet above the surface. It was originally proposed to form a communication between these offices and the house of the president, a plan which was afterwards abandoned.

The Jail consists of two stories, and is a hundred by twenty-one feet.

The Infirmary is a neat building.

There are three commodious Market-places built at the expence of the corporation.

The public buildings at the Navy Yard are the barracks, a work-shop, and three large brick buildings for the reception of naval stores.

The Barracks, constructed of brick, are six hundred feet in length, fifty in breadth, and twenty in height. At the head of the Barrack-yard is the Colonel's house, which is neat and commodious.

The Workshop, planned by Latrobe, is nine hundred feet in length.

The Patent Office, constructed according to the plan of J. Hoban, esquire, (who gained the prize for that of the President's house,) consists of three stories, and is a hundred and twenty feet long, and sixty feet wide. It is ornamented with a pediment, and six Ionic pilasters. From the eminence [1] on which it stands, the richly-wooded hills rise on every side, and form a scenery of unequalled beauty.

In the summer of 1814, this metropolis was taken possession of by an English naval

[1] This eminence has the shape of a tortoise-shell.

and land force, which set fire to the Capitol, President's-house, Public Offices, and Navy-Yard. The moveable property destroyed at the latter place has been estimated at 417,743 dollars. The loss sustained in buildings and fixtures at 91,425; the expences of rebuilding at 62,570; in all 571,541 dollars. The loss sustained by the partial destruction of the Capitol, President's House, and other public edifices, has been estimated at 460,000 dollars: in all 1,031,541 dollars. The superintendant of the public buildings, in his report, dated the 29th of October, 1814, gave the following statement of their cost down to the date of their destruction:—

North wing of the Capitol, including the foundation walls of both wings, and of the centre or main building, and of alterations and repairs . . . . . 457,388 dollars.
South wing of the Capitol . 329,774
President's House 334,334
Public Offices 93,613

Total . . . . . 1,215,111 dollars.

OF LOTS, HOUSES, AND TAXES.

The ground of Washington was originally the property of private individuals, who, by an arrangement with the government, ceded one half to the public, in consideration of the enhanced price of the other, by virtue of this cession. Four thousand five hundred lots, each containing 6,265 superficial feet, are the property of the nation, and have been estimated [1] at one million five hundred thousand dollars. Some of these lots have been sold at forty-five cents per foot, though the common price is from eight to fifteen cents, depending on the advantages of situation. Near the centre market, several have been purchased at twenty-five cents. [2] The original price of lots was from two to eight hundred dollars each, which shews that their value has considerably diminished. This has been owing to different causes, and particularly to the project of some eastern members of Congress to transfer the seat of government to

[1] By M. Blodgett.

[2] From Gen. Van Ness.

some other place. The value of this property has also suffered by litigation. In 1804, several purchasers refused to pay to the commissioners of the government the sums stipulated in the deed of sale, which were to be discharged, according to agreement, at certain fixed dates. In consequence of this refusal, the commissioners ordered the lots to be sold by auction to the highest bidder, and they were re-purchased by the former proprietors for one-tenth of the original cost; by which circumstance the government experienced a loss of seventy thousand dollars. The Supreme Court, to whom the case was submitted, decided in favour of the proprietors, alledging, that as a remedy had been sought in the sale of the lots, the government could not have recourse to another, and it also became responsible for the expenses of the law suit, amounting to two thousand dollars. The proprietors united in support of their mutual interests, which were defended by all the ablest lawyers, except the attorney-general, who stood alone in behalf of the government.

A house, consisting of three stories, twenty-six feet in front, and forty feet deep, com-

pletely finished, costs from four to six thousand dollars. A house of two stories, of the same length and breadth, is valued at from three to four thousand dollars.

The price of house-rent is proportioned to the expense of the materials of its construction, and the advantages of its situation. Bricks cost from five and three-fourths to six dollars and a half per thousand. Their dimensions, fixed by an act of the corporation, are as follows:—

Length	$9\frac{1}{8}$ inches.
Breadth	$4\frac{5}{8}$
Thickness	$2\frac{5}{8}$
Thickness of the stock-brick .	$2\frac{3}{4}$

Calcareous stone, of a blueish colour, is brought from the neighbourhood of Georgetown, and purchased at a cheap rate. Unslacked lime costs from two to two dollars and a quarter per barrel. Wood is cheap: pine and oak are brought from the eastern shore of the Chesapeak. A good bricklayer is paid at the rate of three dollars for every thousand bricks. Some of the houses are covered with slate, though generally with boards, called shingles, the use of which

ought to be prohibited, on account of their combustible nature. Wood is chiefly employed for fuel, and oak and hickery are preferred, which are sold at the rate of four dollars per cord, except during an unusually severe winter, when the price has been from six to seven dollars. By an act of the corporation, a cord of wood must be eight feet in length, four in breadth, and "well stowed and packed." A good dray-horse can be purchased at Washington for sixty dollars; a saddle-horse for a hundred and thirty; and a milch-cow for thirty-five dollars.

The poorer class find great difficulty in feeding their cattle in winter, as the provender of a cow, during that season, costs from twelve to sixteen dollars, and consists chiefly of corn-cobs, or that part of the Indian corn-stalk from which the grain has been separated. These are sold at four dollars the waggon-load. In summer, the white clover [1] of the commons affords a luxurious pasture. A labourer has from half to three-quarters of a dollar per day. Female servants from two to four dollars a month. A cook, from fifteen

[1] Trifolium repens.

to twenty dollars. A seamstress, four and a half dollars per month. A coachman, nine or ten dollars. A shoemaker, who makes a pair of shoes daily, gains a dollar and a half, for the leather costs but one dollar, and the shoes sell at two and a half.

Many planters near Washington, and particularly those who own and cultivate the lands called the Potomac Bottoms, situated near the river, about two miles from the city, have become rich by the culture of tobacco, of which some planters have been known to raise upwards of a hundred hogsheads annually. Since the promulgation of the Imperial decree, which almost wholly excludes the introduction of American tobacco into the French dominions, wheat has become the staple production. Certain tracts of these lands have, within the last few years, been sold at from forty to eighty dollars per acre.

Two of the luxuries of life, pine-apples and ice, are found at Washington at a cheap rate. The former, imported from the West-Indies, are sold at twenty-five cents each. The latter article is purchased, throughout the summer, at half a dollar per bushel.

THE TAXES.

In 1807, a yearly tax of one dollar was laid on all species of dogs, and they must have a collar, with the words "City of Washington" engraved thereon. A reward is given for killing and burying any dog within the city, which has not a collar of this description.

In August, 1809, an additional annual tax of nine dollars was laid on all dogs of the female kind. In 1810, a tax of one half of one per cent, or fifty cents on the value of every hundred dollars, was laid on real or personal property. On male slaves, between fifteen and forty-five years of age, belonging to residents in the city of Washington, a yearly tax of a dollar and fifty cents was levied, and one dollar only on all female slaves, between fifteen and forty years. The taxes on private carriages are as follows:—

A coach, per annum	15	dollars.
A chariot, or post-chaise	12	ditto
A phaeton	9	ditto
Four-wheeled carriages of any other description, with steel springs	6	ditto
With wooden springs	3	ditto
With wooden spars	2	ditto
Curricle, chaise, chair, or sulky	3	ditto

OF THE NEGROES, OR BLACKS.

Most of the domestic and field labour, at Washington, is performed by black slaves, on the subject of which, the same opinion prevails there as in the West Indies, that without them it would be impossible to cultivate the soil. It is difficult to procure white servants whose wages are high. Another inconvenience is, that from interest, caprice, or the love of change, they seldom remain long with the same master. They are unwilling to associate with the blacks, and seeing their former companions on the road to independence, their constant effort is to free themselves from the shackles of servitude. The daily expense of a black slave has been estimated as follows:—

His price is about five hundred dollars, which, at six per cent. the lawful interest, is	30 dollars
For risk or accidents	30
For a peck of Indian meal per week, or thirteen bushels per year, at 50 cents. .	6 50 c.
Two pounds of salt meat per week . .	7 50 c.

A barrel of fish per annum	4 dollars.
To which must be added, for fowls, vegetables, milk, etc. per annum . . .	5
For clothing	15
	In all 98 dollars.

According to this calculation, the daily expense is nearly twenty-seven cents.

A white labourer usually earns three-quarters of a dollar, or 75 cents per day; but as he is more industrious, he performs more work. The masters or proprietors of stout black labourers hire them at the rate of sixty dollars a year. Their food and clothing are estimated at thirty-five dollars.

Some of the old laws of Maryland, concerning slaves, are curious.

In 1715, it was enacted, that ministers of religion could not marry slaves. If a white man married a negro, or mulatto slave, he was obliged to pay a penalty of five hundred pounds of tobacco. A free white woman, who suffered herself to be impregnated by a negro or other slave, or free negro, became a servant during seven years. If a servant, she was obliged to finish her servitude with damage, and again to become a servant for seven years. If the begetter was a free negro,

he also became a slave for seven years. A white man, for similar causes, was subjected to the same penalties. In 1717, it was enacted, that "slaves could not be admitted as evidence in any case wherein any Christian white person was concerned." Most of the slaves of Washington are well clad and nourished. They are usually very civil. In some of the taverns, they sleep on the floor of the dining-room, which the master, for obvious reasons, ought to forbid. Slaves are generally very fond of spirituous liquors, which tavern-keepers are forbid to sell after nine o'clock on Sunday evening, the close of their few hours of recreation and amusement. The penalty for the first infraction is twenty dollars, the second is punished by a forfeiture of licence.

It has been observed, that African slaves brought to this district have shewn much attachment to their owners. They have other good habits, and some very bad ones. Besides their uncommon desire for spirituous liquors, they are fond of changing their wife and partner; and, as soon as a separation takes place, a new attachment is formed. Celibacy is unknown among them. Masters

do not force them to work when advanced in years. We observed one of this description in General Mason's garden, who seemed happy. Attached to his master, he could not bear to see him live alone; and he supported his opinion in favour of marriage by two arguments, which he considered as irresistible, namely, "that the thing a wife was very useful and comfortable, and that without her his master's house would never be clean."

The following account of Yaro, an African, still living in Georgetown, was communicated to me by General Mason.

Yaro, before the American revolutionary war, was brought from Africa to the United States, and there sold as a slave to a family, who lived near Georgetown, on the banks of the Potomac. After many years of hard labour and faithful service, his master gave him his freedom as a reward. Yaro resolved to be independent. He toiled late and early, and in the course of a few years he had amassed a hundred dollars. This sum, which he considered as a fortune, was placed in the hands of a merchant, by whose death and insolvency all was lost, and Yaro found

himself again in the same situation as when he became free. This affected him much; his usual strength had abated, and old age was coming on; but he still cherished the hope of independence. He worked all day at fixed wages, and, in the evening, he made nets, baskets, and other articles for sale. A few years elapsed, and he was again rich: another hundred dollars were the fruit of his toil. This amount he deposited in the hands of another merchant, of Georgetown, who also became a bankrupt. Yaro was sad, but his courage and habits of industry suffered no change. He again resolved to be independent, before the day came when he could no longer work. He renewed his task of daily labour, which he continued without relaxation for several years. He again found himself in possession of another, and a better fortune—two hundred dollars. By the advice of a friend, who explained to him the nature of a bank, he purchased shares to this amount in that of Columbia, in his own name, the interest of which now affords him a comfortable support. Though more than eighty years old, he walks erect, is active, cheerful, and good-natured. His history is

known to several respectable families, who treat him with attention. On Christmas, his great delight is to fire a gun under their windows at break of day, which is intended as a signal for his *dram.* When young, he was the best swimmer ever seen on the Potomac; and though his muscles are now somewhat stiffened by age, he still finds pleasure in this exercise. Fond of conversation, he often, in broken language, thus relates the story of his life, which we insert as a specimen of curious dialect:—

" Olda massa been tink he got all de work out of a Yaro bone. He tell a Yaro, go free Yaro; you been work nuff for me, go work for you now. Tankee, massa, Yaro say. Sure nuff, Yaro go to work for he now. Yaro work a soon—a late—a hot—a cold. Sometime he sweat—sometime he blow a finger. He get a fippenny bit—eighteen-pennee—gib him to massa to put by—put by a dollar, till come a heap. Oh! poor massa take sick, die—Yaro money gone. Oh, Yaro, go to work again. Get more dollars—work hard—more dollars. Gib him now to young massa, he young, he no die. Oh, young massa den broke—den go away. Oh, oh, oh! Yaro

old for true now. Must work again—worky, worky, get more dollar. Gib him this time to all de massa—all de massa cant die, cant go away. Oh, Yaro—dollar breed now—every spring—every fall, Yaro get dollar—chichen now."

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The district of Columbia, west of the Potomac, is subject to the laws of Virginia, and to the east of this river, to those of Maryland; though under the special direction of Congress. The city is governed by the laws of the corporation.

OF THE CORPORATION.

The inhabitants of the city form a body, politic and corporate, under the title of "Mayor and Council of Washington." The council, consisting of twelve members, not

under twenty-five years of age, is divided into two chambers, the first of which has seven, and the second five members, who are all chosen by ballot. The council is elected annually by the free white male inhabitants of twenty-one or more years of age, who have resided twelve months in the city, and paid taxes the year preceding the election. The justices of the county of Washington, or any three of them resident in the city, preside as judges of the election, in conjunction with such associates as the council may appoint. The mayor of the city, who must be an American citizen, and a resident of Washington before his induction to office, is appointed annually by the President of the United States. The sessions of the council are held at fixed periods, and may be convened by the mayor on extraordinary occasions. Three-fourths of the members compose a *quorum*. The fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed by the council, if not exceeding twenty dollars, are recovered, like small debts, before a magistrate; and if greater than this sum, by an action of debt in the district-court of Columbia. All documents relating to the corporation, are kept

by an officer called the Register; all public monies are collected by a treasurer: both of whom bind themselves, by oath and by bond, for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices. The Register keeps the seal of the city, the device of which is an edifice, supported by sixteen columns, having at the top the word "Washington"—beneath, "City Seal, 1802"—and below, the word "Union." The acts of the corporation, of which the first appeared in 1802, already form an octavo volume. They are printed, by order of the council, after the close of each yearly session. In some cases, it has been found difficult to enforce their execution, and more particularly those relating to the rates of fare for hackney carriages, though they are minutely specified. From the Capitol-square to the President's house, or to the Navy Yard, or Greenleaf's Point, the price is 25 cents, or a quarter of a dollar, and half this sum for half the distance. From the President's-square to Greenleaf's Point, and also to the Hamburg Wharf, or to the western limits of the city, the rate is but 25 cents, and half the distance one half of that sum. For every fifteen minutes detention twelve and a

half cents are due; and if after eight in the evening, fifty cents are added to these charges. The driver may take in three passengers, unless three seats be engaged. Those regulations are often disregarded by the hackney-coach drivers, particularly by white men. Blacks are generally more civil and more just, though they too sometimes impose upon strangers, who are obliged to pay three or four times the fixed price, especially in winter, when they conceal the printed regulations, of which the tavern-keeper has seldom a copy.

The corporation deserves praise for their attention to public fountains. We observed one covered with stone, which bears the following inscription:—

BY THE MAYORALTY,
ROBERT BRENT, ESQUIRE,
THIS FIRST PUBLIC FOUNTAIN WAS
ERECTED BY THE CORPORATION AND
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION.

Water may be distributed to any part of Washington from several fine springs, and also from the Tiber Creek, the source of which is 256 feet above the level of the tide

in the same stream. The source of the west branch of this creek, above the level of the tide, is 115 feet. In the interior of Mr. Jones's house there is a fine spring, which flows perpetually. In 1806, the corporation passed an act to establish an infirmary (north of F. street, No. 448), for which the sum of two thousand dollars was appropriated, and trustees appointed for the superintendance of this establishment. Unfortunately, there is no friendly shade to protect the weak and tottering frame of the convalescent, though the situation has the advantages of being dry and airy.

In August, 1810, a sum not to exceed a thousand dollars was appropriated for the support of the infirm and diseased—a circumstance which proves, that there exist unfortunate persons of this description in a country more blessed than any other with the means of supporting life with ease and comfort.—The corporation, directing their attention to another object—to public places of interment, have allotted certain squares (numbered 109 and 1026), for this purpose, which are situated at a proper distance from the populous part of the city. This sacred ground, placed

under the care of commissioners, was enclosed with a fence, formed of posts and rails of cedar and chesnut, which, notwithstanding, have been stolen by persons devoid of that veneration for the ashes of the dead—that respect for the religion of the tombs, which has been shewn even by the most barbarous people. Two dollars are the price of a grave. A sexton is appointed to take care of this place of sepulture, to dig the grave, and keep a register of the persons interred. Evergreen trees and shrubs might be planted around it, to soften the gloomy idea of death, and adorn the solemn repose to which the spot is consecrated.

The canal, which runs through the centre of the city, commencing at the mouth of the Tiber Creek, and connecting the Potomac with its eastern branch, is nearly completed. Mr. Law,[1] the chief promoter of this undertaking, proposes to establish packet-boats, to run between the Tiber Creek and the Navy-Yard—a conveyance which may be rendered more economical and comfortable than the hackney-coach. This canal is to be navigable

[1] Brother to Lord Ellenborough.

for boats drawing three feet water. If the net profits exceed fifteen per cent on the sum expended, the excess is to be paid to the mayor and city council.

The establishment of the Potomac Bridge, under the direction of a company, or board of commissioners, authorised by an act of Congress, affords a striking proof of the liberal spirit of the citizens of Washington. Those of Georgetown, from motives of a different kind, opposed its erection. Besides, an opinion prevailed, that after a sudden thaw, the bridge could not resist the pressure of the floating ice and wood which might then accumulate against the butments. The subscription consisted of two thousand shares, at a hundred dollars per share, ten of which to be paid in advance, and the residue when required by the commissioners. The expenses of the work amounted to ninety-six thousand dollars, and consequently the real value of a share was forty-eight. The bridge, covered with planks of white and yellow pine, is a mile in length, and is supported by strong piles, from eighteen to forty feet according to the depth of the water. A neat railing separates the foot from the horse-way.

By means of a simple crank and pulley, the draw-bridge, for the passage of vessels, is raised by the force of one individual.

The tolls are high, as follows:—

A four-horse carriage . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar.
A two-horse ditto	1
A four-horse waggon . . .	0 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.
A two-horse ditto	0 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
A gig	0 36 $\frac{1}{2}$
A horse	0 18 $\frac{1}{2}$
A man	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

The toll of 1810 amounted to nine thousand dollars. The interest of the stock has risen to eight per cent. After the lapse of sixty years, the corporation will be dissolved, and the bridge become the property of the United States.

No public baths are yet established at Washington. On the river, at the Point, there is abundance of gravelly sand, where a bathing-house might be established, which would be conducive to health and comfort.

Washington has been lately deprived of a great luxury in a warm climate—the spreading shade of magnificent trees. Between the Capitol and the President's House, a certain

space of thickly-shaded ground, extending towards the river, destined for a public walk, was admirably fitted for this purpose; but the oaks and other forest trees with which it was adorned, have been wantonly destroyed by a spirit which will never cease to excite disgust and indignation. In the act of cession of these lands, it had been stipulated, that all the wood growing thereon belonged to the purchasers. The abuse of this privilege might have been readily anticipated, but the evil was felt when there was no longer a remedy. The commissioners interposed for the preservation of the trees which remained, but this late interposition was of no avail. Venerable oaks, which shaded a fine spring, situated at the foot of the Capitol-hill, near the Pensylvania Avenue, were cut down by barbarian hands, which did not even spare the honeysuckle, eglantine, and other flowering shrubs. A spot like this would have been worshipped by the ancients; it would have been emphatically denominated *Sylva Sacra:* he who should dare to profane it would have been doomed to ignominious punishment. The case is widely different with the first settlers at Washington, who,

arriving there in an indigent state, unable to purchase wood for fuel, or the construction of their cabins, through necessity lay the axe to some of the finest timber. In this wild state, trees were considered as common property—*res nullius.*

It is deeply to be regretted, that the government or corporation did not employ some means for the preservation of the trees which grew on places destined for the public walks. How agreeable would have been their shade along the Pensylvania Avenue, where the dust so often annoys, and the summer sun, reflected from a sandy soil, is so oppressive. The Lombardy poplar,[1] which now supplies their place, serves more for ornament than shelter.

It may here be observed, that the large tract of commons in the territory of Columbia is mainly injurious to the industry and growth of Washington. It would be preferable to divide these lands into lots, and sell them at a reasonable price, obliging the purchaser to plant fruit-trees to a certain extent. It is said, that farmers in easy circum-

[1] Populus tremula.

stances, who live without the commons, send their cattle, during summer, to fatten upon them, although they have no right of commons. Salt is occasionally given to them at a certain place, to prevent them from straying. Cows have been stolen from the commons, and horses carried off, and worked in the plough till they became lean, when they were advertised as unknown, to prevent prosecution at law. Thus meanness and crimes grow with the growth of cities. Morals change, and if manners are less rude delinquency is more frequent, from the increasing difficulty of detection. Selfish habits are insensibly contracted, which entwine themselves with all the actions of man, and vice assumes even the appearance of virtue. Yet Washington will, for a long time, have a moral advantage over other great cities, as the sublime scenery of a majestic river, beautified by the luxuriant hangings of woods, rocks, and meadows, keep alive in the breasts of the beholders the native feelings of truth and nature, and prevent their minds from being corrupted by the artificial lures of emasculated softness and gregarious vices.

OF THE NAVY YARD.

The Navy Yard is commodiously situated on the east side of the city, above the mouth of the eastern branch, where there is water for a ship of the line. Its depth in the harbour is twenty-five feet, but there is a sand-bar at its entrance, where the water is but eighteen.

The number of workmen, formerly from seven to eight hundred, now varies from sixty to a hundred and fifty. The wages of a shipwright are from two to two dollars and a half per day. Live oak [1] is purchased by the government at a dollar and a half per foot. Of this species the war vessels are constructed, with the exception of the sides and bands. These are generally of pine, which, owing to its resinous nature, is very durable.

In the Navy Yard there are twenty-two forges and three furnaces. A steam-engine has been lately constructed, which drives a forge-hammer, and is also intended to work

[1] Quercus virens.

a set of saws for cutting timber. The cylinder[1] of this engine, of twenty-one inches in diameter, cost two thousand dollars, without any other appendage than two fly-wheels. The director of this establishment has lately constructed a reverberating furnace, which is employed in preparing old iron hoops for the hammer. By this process there is daily wrought a ton of iron of excellent quality. The hoops are purchased at twenty dollars per ton, and the iron is afterwards sold at a hundred and thirty dollars. After deducting the amount of the expenses of the operation, there is a profit of seventy dollars per day. In this furnace steel is prepared, which has an increase of weight of from eight to ten per cent. In the Navy Yard are prepared anvils, anchors, bellows, copper nails, castings, lead works for the pumps of vessels, and every other naval article of lead, iron, and copper. The lead is brought coast-wise, in pigs, from the Illinois country, and also from the state of Pensylvania in waggons, at seven dollars and a half the hundred weight. The machine

[1] By Mr. Smallman, of Philadelphia, formerly in the employ of Messrs. Watt and Boulton.

consumes daily about three-quarters of a cord of wood, which is preferred to coal, though the expense of each is nearly equal, as the latter is brought from Richmond by water at a cheap rate. The director, Mr. Benjamin King, a native of England, formerly employed at the Clyde and Carron works, has a salary of two thousand dollars a year, besides an annual allowance for house-rent. Mr. Ellis, also a native of England, who superintends the steam-engine, has two dollars per day, and a boy who aids him half a dollar.

In this part of the establishment there are ten white workmen, who have each a dollar and eighty-one cents per day. Black men, equally strong and active, have but eighty cents. The boarding of workmen, including washing, in private houses, is between three and four dollars a week. They are thus enabled to save, in the same space of time, from six to seven dollars, which, with proper economy, will render them in the course of a few years comfortable and independent.

A house, twenty-five by thirty feet, and consisting of two stories, rents for two hundred dollars. This part of the city contains

about a third of the whole population. Most of the houses consist of but one story, and are about forty feet square. The number of inhabitants does not exceed three thousand, and nevertheless there are four churches, viz. Episcopalian, Baptist, Catholic, and Methodist.

The pay of the officers of the marine corps is as follows:—

Lieutenant-Colonel . . .	75	dollars per month.
Rations	72	ditto
Forage	16	ditto
Wood	12	ditto
	175	per month, besides

his house-rent, estimated at two hundred dollars per annum.

A Captain's Pay	40	dollars per month.
Three rations	18	ditto
Wood	8	ditto
	66	dollars per month.

First Lieutenant's Pay . . .	30	dollars per month.
Rations	18	ditto
Wood	8	ditto
	56	dollars per month.

Marine Soldiers have twenty cents per day, and a ration of equal value.

EXPENSES OF NAVAL CONSTRUCTION.

The original cost of the American frigates is from seventy thousand to two hundred and twenty thousand dollars each. The amount of repairs from sixty to a hundred and twenty thousand. The annual expense from 81,000 to 102,000 dollars. The general estimate of naval construction is from forty-five to fifty dollars per ton for labour, and two hundred and twenty-five when complete. The Constitution frigate, of the following dimensions, cost nearly a hundred and eleven thousand dollars for labour expenses.

Length on the spar-deck . . .	180 feet.
The greatest breadth	44
Depth from the spar-deck to the keelson	31
Main-mast	101
Fore-mast	91
Mizen	88

On the spar-deck she has 24 carronades of 32 lbs, and on the gun-deck 30 long guns of 24 lbs. In her late voyage to France she had on board 420 men, a captain, four lieute-

nants, nineteen midshipmen, one surgeon, and two assistants. The wages of her seamen were twelve dollars per month. The daily allowance of provisions a pound and a quarter of beef, or a pound of pork, a pound and a half of bread, three quarts of water, and, on Fridays, a certain portion of cheese, flour, etc. is distributed. The seaman's ration is valued at six dollars a month.

Pay and subsistence of officers of the navy of the United States:—

	Dollars.	Rations per day.
Commanding Officer per month	100	16
Captain of 32 guns, and upwards	100	8
Commanders of ships of 20, and less than 32 guns	75	6
Masters-Commandants	60	5
Lieutenants commanding	50	5
Lieutenants	40	3
Commanders of gallies	40	3
Sailing Masters	40	2
Surgeon	50	2
Surgeon's Mates	30	2
Purser	40	2
Boatswain	20	2
Gunner	20	2
Sailmaker	20	2
Carpenter	20	2
Midshipmen	19	1
Master's Mate	20	1

	Dollars.	Rations per day.
Captain's Clerk	25	1
Boatswain's Mate	19	1
Cockswain	18	1
Quarter-master	18	1
Carpenter's Mate	19	1
Armourer	18	1
Steward	18	1
Cooper	18	1
Master at Arms	18	1
Cook	18	1

The pay of seamen is regulated by that of the merchant service, which, since the year 1800, has varied from ten to seventeen dollars a month.

GREENLEAF'S POINT.

At Greenleaf's Point, which commands the Potomac, the government has established a kind of military depot, under the superintendance of Mr. Villard,[1] to whom is granted

[1] Mr. Villard, who served under the command of Gen. La Fayettte, is one of the unfortunate victims of the well-known *Scioto* Company. As a member of the proposed colony, he had invested all his property in lands, to which the venders thereof had no claim nor

a house and garden, and a salary of fourteen hundred dollars a year. In 1806, this artist invented a machine for mounting heavy cannon, destined for the defence of forts and batteries, by means of which a 24-pounder is raised two feet, in fifteen seconds, by the aid of four men, who, in the same space of time, lower it to its natural bed. The rampart, which affords complete protection to the men, is raised seven feet above the platform. The gun is not exposed to the enemy's fire, except at the instant when it is levelled above the top of the rampart. The following is the expense of mounting a 24-pounder of this construction at Greenleaf's Point:—

Iron work of the carriage 702 lbs. at 20 cents per lb.	140 dollars.
Cast iron	72
Timber for the carriage	16
Workmanship of ditto	30
Jack-screw	80
Painting	6
	344

title. He was cultivating a small spot of ground in the interior of Virginia, when his military knowledge, mechanical talents, and misfortunes, attracted the attention of the Government, and procured him an employ-

In Philadelphia, the mounting of a 24-pounder costs . . . . . 447 dollars.
Difference 103

The rampart is of earth, without masonry or embrasures. When the gun is fired, one man only is exposed. Another advantage of this invention is, that the gun can be pointed in every direction.

At Greenleaf's Point stand the houses built by the gentleman of the same name, which, owing to unfortunate law suits, are tumbling to ruins, from want of repairs, or from never having been finished.

PATENT-OFFICE.

The building in which the Patent-Office is now established, was erected by Mr. Blodgett to serve as a public hotel, and is said to have cost thirty-six thousand dollars, besides the cut freestone, which was furnished by the

ment suitable to his habits and acquirements. Mr. Villard has a small collection of objects of natural history, among which we observed the horned frog of Louisiana, presented to him by the late Captain Lewis.

public, with five or six contiguous lots of land. In 1810, this edifice was purchased by the government, for the sum of ten thousand dollars, and an additional sum of three thousand was afterwards appropriated by Congress to prepare the rooms for the reception of models of machines. This office is under the direction of Dr. Thornton, a native of the West Indies, now a citizen of the United States, who, for this employment, has a salary of two thousand dollars per annum. To obtain a patent for an art or machine, the inventor, if a citizen of the United States, declares upon oath, before a justice of the county where he resides, that he believes himself to be the true inventor; and he gives a description of this art or machine, and the use to which it is applied, accompanied, if necessary, with a drawing, in a letter addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States; and this description is inserted in the patent, for which the sum of thirty dollars is paid to the Treasury Department. If the applicant is not a citizen of the United States he must declare, on oath, that he has resided therein more than two years. The copyright of books, prints, maps, etc. is secured

by depositing a copy thereof in the clerk's-office of the District Court, where the author or proprietor resides. This is recorded and published in one or more newspapers, during four weeks, commencing within two months from the date of the record. A copy must also be forwarded to the Patent Office, through the Secretary, within six months from the date of the publication. The right is thus secured, for the space of fourteen years, to citizens or residents of the United States; and, by a renewal of these formalities, it is extended to their executors, administrators and assigns, for another term of fourteen years. For more particular information respecting patents, reference may be had to the laws of the United States [1] on this subject, and to Dr. Thornton's Circular Letter, dated March, 1811. In this last publication it is stated, "that the proposed revision of the patent law has been under the consideration of Congress for seven years."

A description, with cheap engravings of all the models of machines, might be of great utility; as it would serve to shew what is

[1] Vol. I. p. 121.—Vol. II. p. 200.—Vol. V. p. 88.

original, and what is borrowed, and thus stimulate mechanical genius to new inventions and improvements.

In pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, the Secretary of State presented to that body a list of all the patents issued from the first of August, 1790, to the first of January, 1805. Of the whole number, 598, 250 are for "improvements," the last of which is entitled, "A mode of improving, or setting a horse's ears."

The amount received at the Treasury Department for patents, from 1801 to 1809 inclusive, was upwards of twenty-seven thousand dollars.

OF BANKS.

There are seven Banks in the district of Columbia:—

Bank of Alexandria.
Bank of Potomac.
Bank of Washington.
Union Bank of Georgetown.

Bank of Columbia.
Farmers' Bank of Alexandria.
Mechanics' Bank of Alexandria.

The Bank of Alexandria was established in 1792. The capital first raised amounted to a hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which was afterwards increased to five hundred thousand. The average annual dividend was 8 per cent on the capital.

The Bank of Potomac, which was instituted in the year 1804, with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, has given an annual dividend of seven per cent.

The capital of the Bank of Washington amounts to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and may be augmented to a million.

The Union Bank commenced with a capital of three hundred thousand dollars, and may also be augmented to a million. These Banks are chartered by acts of Congress.

A Comparison of th rent Breeds of imported

Infantado Ram	1	8ss.	
Ditto ditto			
1 Paular Ewe		5ss.	
Ditto ditto		6	
Ditto ditto		6	
3 Paular Ewes	18	ass.	1 lb. to 13
Guadaloupe Ewe		5ss.	
Ditto ditto		5	
Ditto ditto		4	
3 Guadaloupe Ewes	1	ass.	1 lb. to $9\frac{1}{3}$
5 Rams	lbs. 43	1ass.	AVERAGE. 1 lb. to $11\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
10 Ewes	lbs. 565	arc.	AVERAGE. 1 lb. to $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
General Average of the 15 Sheep.	lbs. 997	arc.	AVERAGE. 1 lb. to $10\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

*** Fleec oz.

Bank of Columbia.
Farmers' Bank of Alexandria.
Mechanics' Bank of Alexandria.

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A Comparison of the Weight in Carcass and Wool of different Breeds of imported Merino Sheep fed on Annalostan Island.

	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. lb.	
Infantado Ram	82 8 carcass.	8 8 wool.	1 wool to $9\frac{3}{8}$ carcass.	
Ditto ditto	73 0 »	7 0 »	1 » $10\frac{1}{4}$ »	
2 Infantado Rams	155 8 carcass.	15 8 wool.	2 wool to 20 carcass.	1 lb. to 10
Paular Ram	100 12 carcass.	7 4 wool.	1 wool to $13\frac{5}{4}$ carcass.	
» »	90 2 »	5 14 »	1 » $15\frac{1}{3}$ »	
2 Paular Rams	190 14 carcass.	13 2 wool.	2 wool to $29\frac{1}{4}$ carcass.	1 lb. to $14\frac{1}{3}$
1 Viadillo Ram	85 0 carcass.	9 0 wool.	1 wool to $9\frac{1}{3}$ carcass.	1 lb. to $9\frac{1}{3}$
Infantado Ewe	62 83 carcass.	6 8 wool.	1 wool to $9\frac{1}{3}$ carcass.	
Ditto ditto	53 4 »	6 12 »	1 » $8\frac{1}{4}$ »	
Ditto ditto	57 6 »	6 8 »	1 » 9 »	
Ditto ditto	50 3 »	5 13 »	1 » $8\frac{1}{3}$ »	
4 Infantado Ewes	223 5 carcass.	25 9 wool.	4 wool to $35\frac{1}{4}$ carcass.	1 lb. to $8\frac{3}{4}$
1 Paular Ewe	56 2 carcass.	4 14 wool.	1 wool to $11\frac{1}{3}$ carcass.	
Ditto ditto	63 6 »	4 10 »	1 » 14 »	
Ditto ditto	65 6 »	4 10 »	1 » 14 »	
3 Paular Ewes	184 14 carcass.	14 2 wool.	3 wool to $39\frac{1}{4}$ carcass.	1 lb. to 13
Guadaloupe Ewe	54 2 carcass.	5 14 wool.	1 wool to $9\frac{1}{4}$ carcass.	
Ditto ditto	54 12 »	5 4 »	1 » $10\frac{1}{3}$ »	
Ditto ditto	48 9 »	5 7 »	1 » $8\frac{1}{4}$ »	
3 Guadaloupe Ewes	157 7 carcass.	16 9 wool.	3 wool to $28\frac{1}{3}$ carcass.	1 lb. to $9\frac{1}{3}$

RESULT.

	lbs. oz.	lbs. oz.	lbs. lbs.	AVERAGE.
5 Rams	431 6 carcass.	37 10 wool.	5 wool to $58\frac{5}{4}$ carcass.	1 lb. to $11\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
10 Ewes	lbs. oz. 565 10 carcass.	lbs. oz. 56 4 wool.	lbs. lbs. 10 wool to $104\frac{1}{2}$ carc.	AVERAGE. 1 lb. to $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
General Average of the 15 Sheep.	lbs. oz. 997 0 carcass.	lbs. oz. 93 14 wool.	lbs. lbs. 15 wool to $165\frac{1}{4}$ carc.	AVERAGE. 1 lb. to $10\frac{5}{4}$ lbs.

*** Fleece of each Sheep upon an Average weighs 6 lbs. $4\frac{8}{15}$ oz.

A writer in the *National Intelligencer*[1] proposes the following amendments to the acts of charter:—

1st,—To re-establish the former mode of voting by proxy, without restriction, for the benefit of country stock-holders.

2dly,—To proportion the quantum of suffrage to the quantum of stock, and prevent the town-holders from splitting votes to serve improper purposes.

3dly,—To oblige every director to hold, in his own right, stock to the amount of five thousand dollars, which will promote the prosperity of the Bank.

4thly,—To reduce the salaries paid to the officers of the Bank.

5thly,—To give to country stock-holders the right of discounting to the amount of three-fourths of their stock actually paid up, without the intervention of a town indorser; and further, that forfeited stock shall be sold publicly, and not privately.

6thly,—To publish, in the newspapers, all bye-laws, rules, and regulations.

The Marine Insurance Company of Alex-

[1] No. 1735.

andria was incorporated in 1798, with the power of having a capital of 12,500 shares, at twenty dollars a share, or 250,000 to be paid by instalments, according to the decision of the President and Directors. Seven thousand four hundred and thirty-four shares were subscribed, and the installments called for amounted to thirteen dollars a share, making the capital 96,642 dollars, which, during nineteen years, was found adequate to the business of the company. In February, 1814, the Secretary stated, " that owing to war there was not a cent at risk, and that the entire capital was vested in the stock of the Alexandria and Potomac Banks."

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

The commerce of the city of Washington is confined to the retail of commodities of daily consumption; and the manufactures to domestic use. The inland trade is carried on at Georgetown: the shipping trade at Alexandria.

OF EDUCATION.

In December, 1804, the City Council impressed with a sense of the inseparable connection between the education of youth and the prevalence of pure morals, with the duty of all communities to place within the reach of the poor, as well as the rich, the inestimable blessings of knowledge, and with the high necessity of establishing, at the seat of the general government, proper seminaries of learning, enacted, "that the public schools of the city shall be placed under the direction of a board of thirteen trustees," seven of whom are elected annually by the joint ballot of the council, and six by individuals, who contribute to the support of the schools. A majority of trustees constitutes a quorum, who appoint the President and Treasurer, receive donations, and apply the funds to their proper use. The net proceeds of taxes on slaves and dogs, of licenses for carriages, and hacks for ordinaries and taverns, for selling wines and spirits, for billiard tables, for hawkers and pedlars, for theatrical and other

public amusements, are employed for the education of the poor of the city. If the author of the "fable of the bees" now lived, he would here find a complete verification of his doctrine, "that private vices are public benefits."

There are two academies in the city, under the direction of the corporation, known by the names of the Eastern and Western Academy, which were established by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants, and are supported by the corporation, who, in 1806, appropriated the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, arising from taxes on hackney-carriages and store-keepers, for the education of a certain number of the poorer classes of citizens of both sexes; and resolved to give an annual salary of five hundred dollars per annum to the preceptor of each of the seminaries, who besides was to enjoy the privilege of receiving as many scholars for his own profit as he could well educate.[2]

1 Mandeville.

2 Of one of these schools the Rev. Robert Elliot is the principal. This gentleman, a native of Ireland, was educated at the University of Glasgow, and has been

The education of the poor scholar is confined to reading, writing, and arithmetic, unless he evinces uncommon talents. In this case he is to be instructed in the sciences and mathematics, and is permitted to continue his studies beyond the prescribed term of two years. The number of poor scholars in each school was not to exceed thirty. In October, 1809, the council reduced the sum for the support of these schools from fifteen hundred to eight hundred dollars; fixed the price of tuition of poor scholars at three and a half, instead of five dollars, and decreed that the preceptor is to be paid for those only whom he educates, be the number ever so small. At the expiration of each quarter, a list of the scholars, the name of the parent or guardian, with the voucher of admission —the amount of tuition, of books and stationary, are returned to the board of trustees, who present it to the mayor for his inspection and approbation. The trustees, twelve in number, are elected yearly—one half by the common council, and the others by the sup-

employed during seventeen years in educating American youth.

porters of the institution. A committee of inspection for each school, consisting of three persons, is appointed by the common council, to whom the treasurer makes an annual report. In these two seminaries there are generally from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and fifty scholars, including those who pay for their tuition. The houses are large and commodious, and were intended to be the germ of a national university, in conformity to the plan described in the last will of General Washington. The growth of these academies is impeded by various causes. The number of poor scholars is so great, that the preceptor reaps but little benefit from those who pay for their tuition, as he can receive but few of this description. Besides, there are twelve or more schools in different parts of the city, where the terms of tuition are less than five dollars per quarter, which is a consideration for the indigent, and also for those in easy circumstances, who are accustomed to measure mind by money. In these schools, arithmetic is the *ne plus ultra* of education, and the preceptor, versed in the science of numbers, without which, according to the great Frederick, he

would be "but half a man," has all necessary and useful acquirements. It is evident, that nothing but dire necessity can induce a scholar to be teacher of an academy, when persons, unfit for any other business, adopt this as a trade. It will scarcely be believed, that in a republican country, where every useful or profitable art or invention is eagerly adopted, thirty or forty scholars are encouraged to read aloud at the same time, like a pack of unruly hounds, and that the encouragement which the master receives is proportioned to the stentorian lungs of his scholars.

OF LITERATURE, ARTS, ETC.

A public library has been lately established, by the subscription of two hundred individuals, at twelve dollars each; and the directors of this association have obtained an act of incorporation, with powers suitable to the direction of the establishment. Mr. Boyle, a painter from Baltimore, collects objects of natural history, to form a museum

in a building near the centre of the city, which was formerly occupied as a study by Stewart, the celebrated portrait painter.

The Potomac can boast of but one trophy, and that in honour of bravery—of the young officers who fell at Tripoli.

The Humane Society was lately established by some young gentlemen of the city—an institution which does them great honour.

There is no reading-room at Washington, which is perhaps owing to the profusion of newspapers received there by Members of Congress from all parts of the Union.

The *National Intelligencer* is the only newspaper published in the city. The acts, and sometimes the opinions of the Government, are first communicated to the public through this vehicle of intelligence; and it is owing to this circumstance, that, in Europe, it is generally considered as the organ of the executive authority.

A weekly paper, called *The Hive*, or, *Repository of Literature*, of eight quarto pages, commenced in April, 1811, at a dollar per quarter. It contains selections from books and journals, and some original articles, which are indeed original.

An institution has been lately established, entitled, The Washington Whig Society, of which the object is political.

The preamble to this institution is as follows: "The history of mankind through all ages having shewn that free forms of government are no security for the duration of civil liberty, unless they are supported by a firm unyielding spirit in the mass of the people; and the selfishness of individual pursuits invariably tending towards a relaxation of that spirit, by a sacrifice of fundamental political principles to personal considerations, voluntary associations have, from time to time, been formed among the friends of freedom, in the different republics of the world, to countervail the interested individual bias by the excitation of patriotic sentiments, which the amicable intellectual collision of the members of societies of this description are calculated to produce."

"Impressed with the propriety of employing such laudable means for the promotion of liberal doctrines in politics, the republicans in the city of Washington and district of Columbia have determined to

associate under the denomination of the Washington Whig Society.

"In thus forming themselves into a select community, they discard all present revolutionary views, and all ideas of innovations. They unite upon a basis of veneration for the principles of American independence, and combine chiefly for the purpose of strengthening, by concentration, the cause to which they are inviolably attached."

The officers consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The two first are elected by ballot, for one year, with the privilege of being re-elected. The qualifications of a candidate are his morality and republican sentiments: each member pays two dollars for admission, and twenty-five cents at each stated meeting, which takes place the first Tuesday in every month. Polemical questions of religion are not discussed. A member may be expelled for improper conduct by a vote of the majority of the members present, seven of whom may transact business.

It is permitted to withdraw from the society after having explained the motives to the secretary, and this explanation is not required provided five dollars are paid to the

treasurer. The society may appoint honorary members, who are not residents of the city. The correspondence with other Republican Societies is carried on by a standing committee of five members. There are two Masonic Institutions which assemble in the same building situated on the borders of the river.

The officers of the Lodge are chosen by ballot, and serve during a year. An elected officer is permitted to resign his office on paying five dollars to the charity fund.

The treasurer is accountable for all monies received on account of the Lodge, and gives bond for the faithful discharge of his duty. To become a mason it is necessary to petition the lodge for that purpose, and the candidate must be recommended by two master masons who are members of the Lodge. One dissenting *ball* is sufficient for rejection: but another ballot may be taken at the request of two brethren, and, if again rejected, no other petition can be received in favour of the rejected applicant before the expiration of six months. The fee of initiation is twelve dollars; for second degree, ten dollars: for third degree, eight. Masons are received as members by ballot; and if rejected by two

dissenting balls they have the privilege of a second ballot. The price of acceptance for a master mason is four dollars; for a fellow craft, five; for an apprentice, six dollars. No candidate can be received without a certificate from the lodge of which he was last a member. Committees from, and installed officers of regular lodges, pay nothing on admission. Strangers and sojourners are also exempted, for the first but not the second time, except officers and members of lodges in the district of Columbia. All others pay fifty cents a visit. Twenty-five cents at every stated meeting are exacted from each member.

Disputes between brethren, if any should arise, are examined by a committee of three master masons who are members of the Lodge.

No member, who is not sick, imprisoned, or out of the county, can absent himself from more than two stated meetings without forfeiting his seat in the Lodge. Disorderly behaviour, and breaches of decorum within and without the Lodge, are punished by fines.

1.° Drunkenness—for the first offence, one dollar; for the second, two; for the third, suspension during the will of the Lodge, pro-

vided these offences be committed within twelve months.

2. Dissolute conversation and behaviour—twenty-five cents for each offence.

3. Disobedience of orders—twenty-five cents for each offence.

4. Neglecting, for three stated nights, the payment of just dues and fees—suspension or expulsion, unless released by the Lodge.

5. Refusal to attend the stated meetings of the Lodge—twelve cents and a half.

6. Talking abroad of the transactions of the Lodge—one dollar.

7. Any member who misrepresents or slanders the character of his fellow citizens, incurs the censure of the Lodge.

Fines are imposed by a majority of the members present, but for the suspension or expulsion of a member, the concurrent vote of two thirds of the members present is necessary. The committee of charity consists of a committee of master, wardens, secretary, and treasurer of the Lodge.

ECCLESIASTICAL ORGANIZATION.

IN the district of Columbia, as in all other parts of the United States, religion is considered as an affair of conscience: the government does not interfere in spiritual concerns, so that the word *tolerance*, which implies power, or *monopoly*, is wholly unknown. There are different sects, and a great variety of religious opinions, but no dissention. Peace is considered as the great characteristic of true religion, and active and passive freedom of conscience its natural and best fruit.

The annual salary of a clergyman at Washington, is about a thousand dollars, with a small mansion and lot of land—a provision which is said to be inadequate to the support of a family; and it is probably owing to this circumstance, that two clergymen, the one a Presbyterian, the other a Baptist, have Clerkships in the Treasury department.

The Laws of Virginia and Maryland admit of no external badge or distinction of their order in the ordinary intercourse of life, but only in the exercise of their sacred functions in their respective places of divine worship. Else-

where, and at other times, it is as impossible to distinguish them from the crowd, as to recognise their places of worship, which are without steeple, cross, bell, or other distinctive sign of religious appropriation.

At the general convention of the delegates and representatives of Virginia holden at Williamsburg, in May 1766, it was solemnly declared: "that religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force and violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of their religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other."

In the legislative act of 1785, it was declared to be a natural right, "that no man should be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship—that all men are free to profess, and by argument to maintain their religious opinions."

By an act of Dec. 1792, for the suppression of vice, and punishing the disturbers of religious worship, the offenders are adjudged by a civil trial by jury, who have power to

fine and imprison and bind over to good behaviour. For profane swearing and drunkenness, the penalty is 83 cents; and for labouring on Sunday, one dollar and 75 cents, applied to all persons, and especially to apprentices, servants, and slaves.

For adultery (of which there is scarcely an example) the punishment is twenty dollars. For fornication (which is too common) one half of this sum. Both morals and finance might be benefited by reversing the fine. In the state of *Maryland,* before the revolution, the penalty for adultery was twelve hundred pounds of tobacco, on the payment of which the offender was supposed to be sufficiently *smoked.* If unable to pay, the scourge was applied, and he was lacerated till the blood appeared, though the number of stripes was limited to thirty-nine.

OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

In Washington there are nine physicians, and two apothecaries who are also physicians; their fee in the city is a dollar a visit: in the country it is regulated by the distance. Young men, destined for this profession, usually

study one or two years with a physician, and afterwards hear medical lectures one or two years more at the colleges of Philadelphia or Baltimore. For admission to the exercise of this profession there are no regulations; and any person, however unskilful, may exercise it, though in opposition to an act of the assembly of Maryland, of 1798, which not being rescinded, applies to the district of Washington. By virtue of this act a medical faculty was established in that state, with powers to select twelve persons of the best medical abilities, who, after a strict examination of medical students, or inspection of their college diploma, are authorised to grant them licenses to practise as physician or surgeon: the penalty for the infraction of this act is fifty dollars, to be recovered by a bill of preferment and indictment; one half of which sum is to be given to the faculty, and the other to the informer. It is to be regretted, that this, or some similar regulation, is not enforced at Washington; for the mass of the people of this, as of every other country, are entirely ignorant of those acquirements and experience which a physician ought to possess. The profession is degraded to the great mortification of men of science; and what is

infinitely of more importance, many individuals become the sport or victims of ignorance. The laws ought to find a remedy for this evil by enacting, that no person shall establish himself as a physician, without a regular academical, followed by a medical and surgical, education, or at least palpable evidence of eminent knowledge and experience otherwise acquired.

In 1797, it was enacted by the legislature of New-York, that no person should practise medicine, unless he produced good evidence that he had already exercised this profession during two years; or had pursued medical studies, for the same time, with a respectable physician or surgeon; and the infraction of this act was punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars. It was afterwards enacted, that no person should be allowed to practise physic or surgery, unless he had studied four years with a regular physician, or was furnished with a diploma of Bachelor or Doctor of Medecine by some College or University: that if he had graduated in any College, he might, after three years of medical studies, be authorised to exercise his profession. These acts, which do honor to the legislature, did not produce the desired effect. Young men, without a regular classical edu-

cation, bind themselves apprentices to practising physicians; some of whom, with grave faces, pretend to doubt the advantages of medical, botanical, and chemical lectures; and even express a sort of *mahometan* horror against the dissection of a dead body. To evade the act in question, a private contract is made with the *teacher*, by means of which the student is permitted to practise in his name, at some neighbouring place, for a certain portion of the fees which he receives. How then under these circumstances can he be acquainted with the causes, nature, symptoms, and species of diseases? Even the science of botany, and the study of the qualities of those plants, which nature has provided as remedies for certain disorders, are almost entirely neglected. How strikingly unjust, that a gentleman and scholar, regularly educated as a physician, should be placed on a level with a person who believes in the efficacy of charms, amulets, and superstitions worse than Egyptian.

The profession of an apothecary ought to be distinct from that of a physician. This would promote the interests and convenience of both, provided the fees were regulated as in France and in Britain. The physician,

when called to the country, is paid but a shilling a mile; but he has more profit from the sale of his drugs, which he is obliged to carry in his saddle-bags, where they are frozen in winter and melted in summer, to the great injury of the patient. He is obliged to profit of another circumstance, that of repeating his visits as long as a shadow of indisposition exists. The obstetric art ought not to be, as it generally is, in the hands of old women, unless educated for it, when young, as in France. Infants are mutilated, mothers are injured, sometimes rendered unfruitful, and, in difficult cases, expire, for want of a skilful surgeon. The ravages which quackery exercises over the population are perhaps worse than all the diseases which prevail. Every species of ignorance and superstition is put under contribution to serve her purposes, while she operates by means of the influence acquired over the imagination of the victim. The good sense and integrity of magistrates and ministers of truth ought to be vigorously exerted against the mummery and delusion of words, signs, and charms.

In a territory where the wisest legislation has been adopted and sanctioned by public

opinion, ignorance, which degrades the moral and destroys the physical man, ought to find no resting-place. The enlightened physicians of Washington ought to create an association for establishing a medical library, and form themselves into a standing committee for foreign correspondence and domestic consultation on medical matters. The fruits of such an institution would be incalculable[1].

OF THE WOMEN OF COLUMBIA.

The state of female society at Washington does great honour to the sex. They have been accused of sacrificing too much to the empire of fashion, but as we have not been able to verify the extent of this tribute, it would be dangerous to decide on so delicate a subject. They are certainly superior women, generally highly gifted in mental, as they are adorned with personal endowments. They have hitherto withstood the lamentable

[1] Respectable and distinguished physicians and surgeons of the United States regret, as we do, that ignorance and quackery prevail against suffering humanity; and we hope that they will find nothing else in these observations than an homage which is due to their talents and patriotism.

ravages which art and luxury have in other great cities produced upon the sex.

There is an evil, however, which is deeply lamented. It is natural to love those who are made to be loved; and no sooner do the young ladies of Washington arrive at the nubile state, than they give their hand to some wooing stranger, or member of Congress, who carries them off in triumph to his distant home. The young citizens, who have been daily contemplating the regular advances of these shoots into perfection, disappointed in their ardent intentions, sigh and exclaim (not without reason) against the corruption of the times, against family interest, and an unnatural and disheartening preference to foreigners. Washington thus resembles a nursery, whose fine plants are annually transported to a foreign and less congenial soil.

In cities and in towns, the motives to marriage are not so strong as in the country; and, on this account, members of Congress have the advantage. When the author of "*The Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations,*" wrote that admirable work[1], it appears, "that a young widow

[1] In 1776.

in North America, with four or five young children, was considered as a kind of fortune." The value of children, he observes, was the greatest of all encouragements to marriage.

This is no longer the case, as is evident from the increasing number of bachelors, and of window-frames of a certain colour, which they readily recognize. How far preferable the sweet illusion of moral love! With all our predilection for the Columbian fair, we have seen with regret among the ladies of Washington, a fondness for play, that bewitching passion, which extinguishes the best sentiments of the heart, and creates a dislike to every useful or pleasant occupation. When indulged from motives of gain, the violence of hope, fear, and other worse passions, changes the very features, in effacing that divine impression of the female countenance which is so often irresistible.

Buffon has very wisely observed, "that there is no proportion between the pleasure of gaining and the misfortune of losing." Against a vice so dangerous to morals, every parent ought to exclaim—

"*O pueri fugite hinc, latet anguis in herba.*"—*Virg.*

OF GEORGETOWN.

Georgetown is finely situated on the north east side of the Potomac river, in a romantic elevation. It is divided from Washington by Rock Creek, over which there are two bridges. That nearest to its mouth has three arches, is a hundred and thirty-five feet in length, and thirty-six feet in breadth. The other, at the distance of six hundred and fifty yards, is supported by piles two hundred and eighty feet long, and eighteen feet wide. The distance of Georgetown from Alexandria is ten miles; and there is a daily communication between these two places by means of a packet-boat.

In 1810, the population of Georgetown was upwards of seven thousand. Some trade has been carried on between this port and the West Indies. Mr. Scott, in his Geographical Dictionary, informs us, that the exports of 1794 amounted to 128,924 dollars. Flour and other articles are transported to Alexandria in vessels which do not draw more than nine feet water.

The houses of Georgetown, chiefly of brick, have a neat appearance. Several were built before the streets were formed, which gave rise to an observation from a French lady, that Georgetown had houses without streets, and Washington streets without houses. In forming the streets it was found necessary, in several places, to cut away the earth to the depth of ten or twelve feet, as the rains, washing away the earth, have undermined the walls of the houses, which the owners are obliged to extend to the level of the street. The Bank is a neat building. The churches, under the direction of trustees, are plain and without ornament.

The corporation of Georgetown is divided into two branches. The first, consisting of a board of aldermen, composed of five members and a recorder; the second, a board of common councilmen, of eleven members. The aldermen are chosen by the corporation out of their own body. The others, with the exception of the mayor, are chosen by members of the common council. Those of the first branch are elected for two years; those of the second for one only. Four of the

former, and seven of the latter, constitute a quorum. The qualifications of a voter are as follow:—his being a free white male citizen, twenty-one years of age, and his payment of taxes twelve months previous to the election.

A newspaper, called the "Spirit of 76," is published at Georgetown; another, the "Independent American," has lately ceased for want of subscribers.

There is a coffee-house, *without coffee*, supported by subscription, where a number of newspapers are received. Members of Congress and strangers are generously admitted without payment.

Livery stables are established, where good saddle-horses may be hired for a dollar and a half per day.

AGRICULTURAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

The Columbian Agricultural Society, for the promotion of rural and domestic economy, was instituted in 1810. There are two annual meetings, in May and November,

at which the officers are appointed, namely, a president, vice-president, secretary, and standing committee, on subjects relating to the institute; the president is authorised to correspond directly, or through the secretary, with this committee, or with any individuals or societies in the United States.

It is the duty of the secretary to record the transactions of the society, and to manage its pecuniary concerns. The standing committee consists of twenty members, selected from the district of Columbia and the adjoining states. Premiums are adjudged at one of the general meetings, by a board of five members, appointed by the president and standing committee, and they extend to articles of the district of Columbia and adjoining states, which are declared to have been manufactured in the family of the person by whom they are exhibited. This institution has already two hundred members, who pay each ten dollars a year, the whole of which is expended in premiums. The first adjudged were as follows:—

For the best two-toothed ram lamb . .	100 dollars.
For the next best	80
For the third best	60

For the best piece not less than ten yards of fancy pattern for vests	30 dollars.
For the best piece of cotton cloth for pantaloons or small-clothes	30
Best cotton counterpane	20
Best pair of cotton stockings	10
For the best piece, not less than ten yards, of hempen or flaxen sheeting. . . .	30
Best piece for shirts.	30
For table linen	30
Best pair of stockings of hemp or flax. .	10
Best piece of twilled cloth for bags or sacks, of hemp, flax, or cotton . . .	20
For shearing a sheep in the neatest, safest, and most expeditious manner . . .	15

At the second general meeting, in June, 1810, premiums were given for the best bulls, bullocks, cows, woollen cloth, kerseymere, cotton, warp-flannel, woollen and cotton stockings, blankets, carpets, and rugs. At the exhibition in 1802 (according to the report of the National Intelligencer), a steer weighing 2700 lbs. was sold at twelve dollars per hundred weight to a butcher, who calculated his net beef at two thousand pounds weight. This huge animal was reared by Mr. Steinberger, a farmer of Shenandoah county, in Virginia.

The advantages of a society of this kind are incalculable. Agriculture, which is the basis of industry, and the source of prosperity, requires the constant aid of science and experiment. The inventions and improvements of other nations, and the application of chemical principles to the practice of agriculture, may remain long unknown to farmers in general, if not communicated to them by men of scientific research into these matters. Besides, societies of this kind have a useful moral effect, as they tend to efface unjust prejudices, created by inequality of fortune or condition. How pleasing it is for humble citizens to find themselves in the company of the most enlightened, by whom their skill or industry in the useful arts are justly appreciated.

An Agricultural Journal was begun by Mr. Wylie, in July, 1810, of which a number, consisting of sixteen pages, appears every fortnight, and the annual price to subscribers is two dollars and a half. Besides original essays on practical agriculture, it contains selections from works on this subject.

EDUCATION.

The Catholic College of Georgetown, erected and supported by subscription, commenced in the year 1790, under the direction of the incorporated Catholic clergy of the state of Maryland, of whom that excellent man Archbishop Carrol is the head. Most of the first professors were French priests, who from some jealousy or misunderstanding with their indigenous brethren, were obliged to quit the establishment, which gave a temporary check to its improvement.

The College is a fine brick building, consisting of three stories, in length a hundred and fifty-three feet, and thirty-three in breadth, and is fitted for the reception of two hundred students. Situated on an eminence eighty feet above the bed of the river, it is on a level with the ground of the Capitol, and commands an enchanting view of the Potomac and its banks. On the other side, the view is bounded by the neighbouring hills, which form a magnificent amphitheatre. It appears that the situation is very healthy, for no student has yet died in the seminary.

The present professors are young men destined for the church, who have not a fixed salary. An Italian from Milan, who gives lessons on natural philosophy, conducted us through the establishment, and pointed out the objects of curiosity, among which is a species of orrery and armillary sphere, executed by his own hand.

The terms of tuition are as follows:—Students above twelve years of age pay two hundred and fifty dollars; and under that age, two hundred. Those who attend the classes of philosophy, pay two hundred and fifty dollars, owing to extraordinary expenses, and some particular indulgencies. The payments are made half-yearly in advance. Those parents or guardians who furnish the scholars with clothes, are allowed a deduction of fifty per cent. but the college is not responsible for such clothing. Ten dollars are paid on entry for bed linen, table service, school books, etc. The student is charged with medical attendance and medicines, postage of letters, and extraordinary lessons.

The dress consists of a plain coat and pan-

taloons of blue cloth, with yellow buttons, and a waistcoat of red cloth, or kerseymere.

To be admitted as a pensioner, the student must be a Roman Catholic. If a Protestant, he boards in a house convenient to the college, where he enjoys equal advantages with the Catholics, except as to admission to the instruction and exercises of the Roman religion, to which, without express orders, none but Roman Catholics are admitted—the necessary result of giving education to youth, intended to be brought up in different systems of religion. No upright man can teach youth what he believes to be error; nor can parents who intend their children to differ from the Roman Catholic religion, wish them to imbibe its principles and doctrines. Out boarders are furnished by the parent with the uniform of the college, and pay every six months in advance the sum of fifty dollars.

The student is instructed in the English, French, Latin, and Greek languages; in geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and the different branches of classical education. Public examinations are holden four times a year. Prizes are given to the indus-

trious; the idle are punished by confining them to their rooms and studies during the period of vacation. The age of admission is from eight to fourteen. There is an elementary class, where, if necessary, the scholar is taught to read and write, and prepared for classical education.

At Georgetown there is a female boarding-school, kept by Madame du Cherray, a native of France. Boarders pay in advance fifty dollars per quarter; washing, dancing, and music, are extra charges. Half-boarders, who dine only, pay thirty-seven dollars. The price of dancing is from twelve to fifteen dollars per quarter, during which there are thirty-six lessons. Drawing is from eight to ten dollars. Music three-quarters of a dollar per lesson. The scholars are instructed in English grammar, arithmetic, and geography. Drawing is taught by Madame du Cherray.

A free school has been lately established by subscription, to be conducted according to the plan of Mr. Lancaster, who has engaged to send two masters from England for its superintendance and direction. This seminary was incorporated in 1812, by an act of Congress, under the title of the

" Trustees of the Georgetown Lancaster School Society." The trustees are twelve in number; and three successors, duly elected and appointed, form a corporation and body politic in law and in fact. The following is a copy of this act of incorporation:—

AN ACT

To incorporate the Trustees of the Georgetown Lancaster School Society.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, — That John Laird, Henry Foxall, Stephen B. Balch, Robert Beverley, Robert Munroe, John M'Daniel, jun. David Wiley, Walter D. Addison, Daniel Bussard, Francis S. Key, Walter Smith, John Abbott, and their successors, duly elected or appointed, in manner hereinafter directed, be, and they are hereby made, declared and constituted, a corporation and body politic, in law and in fact, to have continuance for ever, by the name, style, and title of " The Trustees of the Georgetown Lancaster School Society."

Sec. 2.—*And be it further enacted,* That all and singular, the lands, tenements, rents,

annuities, rights, privileges, goods and chattels, heretofore given, granted, devised or bequeathed, to the said school, or to any person or persons, for the use thereof, or that have been purchased for or on account of the same, be, and are hereby, vested in and confirmed to the said corporation: *And further,* That the said corporation may purchase, take, receive and enjoy, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, rights or privileges, or any goods, chattels or other effects, of what kind or nature soever, which shall or may hereafter be given, granted, sold, bequeathed, or demised, unto them by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable of making such gift, grant, sale or bequest; and the said property, real and personal, to rent, sell, convey and confirm, or otherwise dispose of, as fully and effectually as any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, may or can do: *Provided,* That the clear annual income of all such property may not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars; and that the aforesaid property, real and personal, be considered as held in trust, under the management and at the disposal, of said corpo-

ration, for the purpose of defraying the expenses incidental to said school.

Sec. 3.—*And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation, by the name, style and title aforesaid, be, and shall be hereafter, for ever, able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in any court or courts, or other places, and before any judge or judges, justice or justices, or other persons whatsoever, within the district of Columbia or elsewhere, in all and all manner of suits and actions, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands, of whatsoever kind or nature they may be, in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, may or can do.

Sec. 4.—*And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall have full power and authority to make, have and use a common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall think proper, and the same to break, alter and renew, at their pleasure; to appoint a president, treasurer, secretary, and such other officers, as they may deem neces-

sary and proper, either out of their own number, or otherwise; to assign them their duties, and to fix their compensation, and to remove any or all of them from office, appoint another or others in their place, as often as they shall think fit; to make, ordain, establish and execute, such bye laws and ordinances as may be deemed useful for their own government and for the government of the school; and the same to alter, amend or abrogate at pleasure; to fill up vacancies that may happen in their number, between two annual elections; and to determine upon, do and transact all business and matters appertaining to the said corporation, agreeably to the rules, bye-laws and ordinances thereof, during their continuance in office: *Provided*, That not less than five trustees be a quorum to do business, and that no bye-law, rule or ordinance shall be made repugnant to the laws of the district of Columbia.

Sec. 5.—*And be it further enacted*, That there shall be a meeting of the members of the said society held on the second Monday in February next, and on the same day in every year thereafter, at the school house erected by the said society, at which time

and place the said members, or such of them as may be present, shall elect and choose by ballot, from their own number, twelve trustees to serve for the year ensuing their election, and until others shall be elected or appointed to serve in their place.

Sec. 6.—*And be it further enacted*, That the trustees shall keep, or cause to be kept, in suitable books for the purpose, just and proper entries of all proceedings and accounts of said school and corporation, and have them laid before the society at every annual meeting, previous to taking the votes; and shall always deliver the said books, together with all the property of said school and corporation, in good order, to their successors in office, whenever required.

Sec. 7.—*And be it further enacted*, That children may be bound (in the manner now by law provided) to the said society; the deed or articles of apprenticeship to be executed on the part of the said society by any two of the trustees thereof; and it shall be agreed by the said deed, on the part of the said society, that every such child or children shall be provided with all necessary food, clothing and lodging, and taught read-

ing, writing and arithmetic, and be placed in the service of, and under the controul and management of, some discreet and fit person, competent to instruct and educate the said apprentice, in some trade or employment, which may enable such child or children to earn a living by honest industry.

H. CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

GEO. CLINTON,
Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

March 19, 1812.

Approved, JAMES MADISON.

FOUNDERIES, NURSERY-GROUNDS, AND INCLOSURES.

On the hills above Georgetown there are several fine country seats. That of Mr. Peters, the grandson of Washington, commands a beautiful view of Georgetown, Washington, the Potomac, and adjacent countries.

From the house and grounds of Mr. Parrot there is a prospect truly picturesque. From

the side of a conical hill, a valley opens to the view, which exhibits some of nature's finest scenery.

About a mile beyond Georgetown, on the Potomac river, there is a cannon foundery, belonging to Mr. Foxhall, a native of England, the machinery of which was erected by a Scotsman of the name of Glasgow. There are two boring mills situated near each other. In one, five cannons are bored at the same time; in the other, three. The streams which move the machinery are small, but the water falls to great advantage over an overshot wheel of twenty-nine feet in diameter.

By the aid of dams, which receive rain water, there is a constant supply during the summer. About thirty workmen are employed, chiefly emigrants from Europe.—Foremen have two dollars; moulders, one and a half; and common workmen, two thirds of a dollar per day.—The iron ore, of an excellent quality, is brought from the banks of the Potomac, near Harper's Ferry. It is rare that a gun bursts in firing it with a double charge. A cannon was lately cast at this foundery, of a hundred pounds ball, to which

was given the name of Columbiad. It requires two days to make a cannon, and two to bore it. The price is fifty pounds currency per ton. The profits of this establishment are very considerable.

About two miles from Georgetown, on a hill of steep ascent, elevated about a hundred feet above the level of the river, there is a nursery of trees belonging to Mr. Maine, who had selected this spot for the cultivation of the vine, which succeeded well on the east side of the hill during the space of three years, and particularly the species known by the names of black Hamburg and white chassela. The fourth year, an unusual warmth took place, in the month of November, succeeded by a frost, which split the vine-stalk one foot upwards from the surface of the ground, and thus destroyed all the hopes of the proprietor. Unfortunate man! he was too poor to procure others and renew the culture, except on a very small scale, and merely for the purpose of furnishing plants for sale, for which he found there was little demand. After this sad event, he turned his attention to the cultivation of the indigenous thorn of this country, now used for hedges,

of which he sells a great number annually. Fifty thousand, of a year's growth, from twelve to eighteen inches in height, were lately purchased by a Virginia planter, at five dollars per thousand. In a good soil they grow to the height of twenty feet. He also cultivates the honey-locust *(gleditzia triacanthos),* and the *pyrocantha,* or evergreen thorn, which is sold at two dollars per thousand when a year old. Plants of this species are placed at the distance of a yard from each other. Their growth is rapid, and they make an excellent hedge. He also cultivates pear and apple trees, which are sold from a dollar to twenty-five cents each, when they have grown to the height of four or five feet. They usually give fruit in their seventh or eighth year; and at a much earlier period, when grafted on an old stock. He shewed us a pear-tree, of about twelve feet in height, that last year yielded a hundred and twenty dozen of pears, which were sold at twelve cents and a half per dozen, giving a profit of fifteen dollars. This species is named the *Lammas,* or *Crawford pear.*

The pear-tree of this district is sometimes

destroyed by a disease of the sap-vessels, of which we had an opportunity of examining the effects in the Drummond species. The diseased parts, when cut or broken, emit a disagreeable odour.

Mr. Maine employs five or six young blacks to cultivate his nursery, whom he nourishes, educates, and rewards with the annual sum of sixty-four dollars. During hours consecrated to repose, he teaches them to read and write, and instructs them in moral duties. Joseph Moor, a manumitted black, who lived with him several years, is now a respectable grocer in Georgetown.—Mr. Maine, a native of Scotland, is a bachelor of sixty years, who acquired the art of gardening on the banks of the Tweed. Cheated of his patrimony by a near relation, he emigrated to the United States, where he was still pursued by misfortune. The victim of an intermitting fever of an obstinate kind, he wandered, during four years, sad and pensive from place to place. His little stock of money was exhausted, and, unable to work, he was reduced to poverty, and felt too proud to seek relief from those to whom his misfortunes were known. At last, by a lucky cir-

cumstance, he was enabled to embark for his native country, where he found some pecuniary resources, which enabled him to return to the United States, and rent the spot of land he now occupies, of sixty acres, during the term of twenty years, for two hundred guineas. Twelve of these years have already elapsed; and it is unfortunate for himself and the public, that he did not select a more favorable situation, and become proprietor of the soil, which would have secured to him all the pleasures and profits of his improvements. Near his cottage there is a fine spring of water, which issues from a rock of white quartz. We saw here the skunk-weed, or skunk-cabbage[1], which emits an abominable odour. It may be observed, that the road to the summit of the hill is rough and difficult.

In 1807, Mr. Maine published a very useful little work, entitled, "Directions for the transplantation and management of young thorn, or other hedge plants, preparative to their being set in hedges, with some practical observations on the method of plain

[1] Pothos fetida.

hedging, etc[2]." In this publication it is observed, that the best nursery for these plants is a black loam, rich, deep, and rather moist, and twelve inches at least in depth. It is recommended to plant in rows, fourteen inches from each other, and to leave the distance of three inches between each plant. Twenty-one yards square will thus contain ten thousand plants.

The heavy rains and frosts of the American climate destroy ditches, and render what is called "plain hedging" a very useful art. This consists in planting and rearing, in a rich and well-prepared soil, a row of hard thorn, or other similar plants, to form a hedge through which domestic animals cannot pass. The plants must be protected, during five or six years, by a temporary fence of rails, or wattled brush-wood. To furnish materials for this purpose, our author recommends, when wood is scarce, the culture of chesnut, pine, cedar, mulberry, and the common locust. A post and rail fence will protect successively two or three hedges.

[2] 138 pages 8vo.—A. and G. Way, printers, Washington.

To render the hedge impervious to cattle, rails, connected by means of hickory-bark, or other cheap ligature, are placed along the middle of the hedge in the fourth year of growth, when it is cut to the height of about three feet. In the course of two years, the rails are so completely embraced by the new shoots, that it cannot be divided, nor penetrated by a large-sized animal.

To prevent hogs from passing underneath, several methods are recommended. When the protecting fence decays, stakes of two feet in length are fixed in the ground between each of the plants, which, when they are two two years old, are cut with a saw an inch and a half from the surface. The thorny shoots are then so multiplied that no opening remains. Stones are also recommended for the same purpose, or flat rails with a mound of earth.

Mr. Maine has not yet tried the cultivation of the holly[1] and the red-cedar[2], which do not require a rich soil, and seem to be well

[1] Ilex.

[2] Juniperus Virginiana.

fitted for a hedge. Of the former there are ten species in the American territory.

ALEXANDRIA.

The town of Alexandria, formerly named Belhaven, is pleasantly situated on the Virginia or west side of the river Potomac, at the distance of six miles in a southern direction from Washington city. The streets, like those of Philadelphia, run in straight lines, and intersect each other at right angles. The houses are of a neat construction. Those erected at the expense of the public, are an episcopal church, an academy, court-house, bank, and jail. Alexandria has carried on a considerable commerce with New Orleans, and also with the East and West Indies, and some European ports. The warehouses and wharfs are very commodious. Vessels of five hundred tons lie in the basons. Some have sailed from this port with twelve hundred hogsheads of tobacco on board.

The tonnage of Alexandria, in 1811, was eleven hundred and fifty-nine, of which its

merchants are the sole proprietors. It has lately increased to about two thousand tons. The goods, wares, and merchandize, of the growth and produce of the United States, during three months, ending the 30th June, 1811, amounted to 853,720 dollars. Of flour there were 72,671 barrels; of corn, 83,752 barrels. The other articles were bread, rice, beans, oats, rye, meal, etc. In this same space of time, 55,610 pounds of flour, with a considerable quantity of corn, rye, and wheat, were exported to different ports of the United States, beyond the capes of Virginia. The whole quantity of flour exported, at the then average price of nine dollars and fifty cents per barrel, amounts to more than a million of dollars. During the three first months of the year 1811, the exports of Alexandria to foreign countries, consisting of goods, wares, and merchandizes, were estimated at 507,988 dollars, of which there were of flour 47,687 barrels, valued at nine dollars per barrel. The other articles were fish, staves, shingles, beef, pork, hams, lard, corn, rye, oats, beans, potatoes, bread, rice, tobacco, maize, candles, soap, gin, rum, etc.

It is said, that the bread formerly shipped

at this port for the use of the English fleet on the West India station, amounted to a hundred thousand dollars per annum.

The principal merchants of this place have failed in consequence of losses abroad, or unfortunate speculations. Those who carry on business at present employ their capital sin a more cautious manner.

Manufactures are yet in their infancy. Two manufactures of cut nails have been lately established, and several of woollen and other cloths. House rent is cheap, for, except along the basons, it is not more than six per cent, and in some places not half that sum. A house occupied by Bland Lee, Esq. consisting of three stories, is rented at two hundred and fifty dollars; and the fee-simple of house and lot was offered for six thousand dollars. The house itself cost eight thousand.

Two newspapers are published in the town: the "Alexandria Gazette," a federal paper, which appears daily, at six dollars per annum; and the "Alexandria Herald," which commenced in June, 1811, and is issued twice a week at four dollars per annum.

There are already five churches—Protestant, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, and Baptist.

In the academy there are forty scholars, thirty-five of whom learn Latin and classical literature, and twenty-one, reading, writing, and arithmetic. There are nine or ten physicians, but there is no medical society. Any person may exercise this profession. In the town the usual fee is a dollar per visit; and five dollars, to and within the distance of ten miles.

The obstetric art is in the hands of old women, who are supposed to possess it as a gift of nature. Dr. Dangerfield informs us, that surgical cases are rare. A few years ago, Alexandria was visited by the yellow fever, which swept off two hundred individuals. Great precautions are taken to prevent a return of this destructive scourge.

Baths have been lately established, the price of which is half a dollar.

The population of Alexandria has increased at the expense of the surrounding country. Many foreigners have been also attracted thither, on account of the generous sentiments of the natives, who, convinced

that the worth of man depends upon his conduct and talents, feel no prejudice on account of foreign birth. In this respect they fulfil one of the most sacred duties of the American citizen, strictly enjoined by the constitution and laws, which declare, that it is not the fault of the offspring that the parent was born in another soil.

The inhabitants are truly hospitable. The usual visit of friendship is in the evening, when tea, and cakes, and fruit, are offered to the guests without ostentation. The women, industrious by habit, prefer the joys of private life and objects of utility, to parade and luxurious repasts.

The elevated situation of Alexandria, the stiff clayey soil on which it stands, and the facility with which it may be approached by ships of the line, had attracted the attention of General Gage, the commander in chief of the British forces, who, in 1776, proposed to surprise this town by placing a garrison at Pittsburg, marching a force across the Alleghany Mountains, establishing a post at Fort Cumberland, descending the Potomac, and attacking Alexandria on one side, while the fleet of the Earl of Dunmore was to assail

it on the other. By means of this town, well fortified, it was proposed to intercept all communication between the southern and northern parts of the continent[1].

It would appear, that the British Government has never lost sight of this position. In August, 1814, Alexandria was attacked by an English squadron, and the inhabitants capitulated on most unfavourable conditions, giving up not only all naval and ordnance stores, but also merchant vessels and merchandize of every description; and the troops stationed at Fort Warburton, the only defence of Alexandria, blew up the magazine, and abandoned the fort.

By the charter of Alexandria, the town is divided into two wards, or districts. The right of suffrage, for members of the common council, belongs to every free white male citizen of full age, who has a freehold estate in the town, or who has resided therein for the space of a year, paid a public tax, and has been a housekeeper three months preceding the annual election. The common-council is a politic and corporate body, from which

[1] See Captain Smyth's Tour.

the president is chosen : and all the estate, rights, and credits of the mayor and commonalty, are vested in this council.

The mayor, who must be a white male American citizen, of thirty-two years of age, owner of a freehold estate in the town, and a resident thereof five years previous to his election, is chosen annually, for the space of a year, by a vote of the common-council. The concurrence of a majority of all the members is necessary for passing, modifying, or repealing a law, order, or resolution.

The country near Alexandria is very interesting, particularly that part of it known by the name of the Northern Neck of Virginia, situated to the west of the Alleghany Mountains, between the 57th and 40th degree of north latitude, containing about a hundred and fifty miles of square extent, and bounded by the Potomac and Rappahanoc rivers, on which, as well as on the Shenandoah, there are several manufacturing mills. This part of Virginia is divided into two tracts—the first, running north and south from the Blue Ridge to the Potomac, is about sixty miles in breadth. The other tract, of greater extent and more elevated, is of a dif-

ferent soil, and embraces a part of the Limestone Valley, which extends from the sea-coast to the Alleghany Mountains. This region is very healthy, except on the borders of the river, and during autumn, when bilious disorders prevail, particularly in very wet or in very dry seasons. In some places the springs dry up in summer, in which case it is necessary to drive the cattle several miles for water to the large rivers, which injures their health, and is a great inconvenience to the proprietors.

The most fertile soil produces walnut, locust, mulberry, wild cherry-tree, hickory, poplar, oak of various kinds, elm, dog-wood, ash, etc. The second quality of soil has but few walnut, locust, or mulberry-trees, but chesnut, sycamore, sugar, and common maple-trees grow abundantly. On the borders of rivers are seen the sassafras, magnolia, ash, birch, hazel, holly, thorn and crab-tree. The knolls of small extent have a cold, stiff, clayey soil, and are covered with a scrubby oak called Black Jack, or Barren Oak *(Quercus ferruginea.* Mich.*)*, which furnishes meat for hogs, and wood for fuel. The usual crops consist of wheat, rye, oats, spelts, and

maize. The latter does not thrive in dry seasons. Wheat is the staple production.

The following mode of cultivation is practised by Mr. Rickets:—

About the close of February, or early in March, a bushel of clover-seed is sown on eight acres of wheat; and in April or May, a bushel of pulverised plaster of Paris [1] is scattered over the surface. The following year the clover is cut, dried like hay, and is excellent provender. If not used for pasture, the field is mowed twice during the first year, sometimes twice the second, and once the third. The soil is afterwards in a fine condition for wheat, of which it yields from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre. The clover protects the soil from the action of the sun, and it is perforated and loosened by the roots of this plant. The following is his mode of top-dressing: in the fall, the winter crop of wheat, or of rye, is covered with cow or horse-dung mixed with straw, which is beaten down by the rain and snow, and this covering protects it from the frost. Mr. Rickets is of opinion, that a load, spread in

[1] Sulphat of lime, or gypsum.

this manner, is equal to ten covered in the ordinary way by the plough.

This Northern Neck is famed for fine beef and butter.

Hemp and flax are cultivated on the flat lands, where horses, hogs, sheep, and poultry thrive in a remarkable manner. The best soil sells at from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars per acre. The second quality from ten to fifteen. The third, from three to four. The last is usually employed as a range for cattle.

The improved lands of Morefield, on the Northern Neck, in lots of two, three, or five hundred acres, sell at a hundred and forty, and sometimes at a hundred and sixty dollars per acre. In the purchase of tracts of the Southern Branch Bottom, the adjacent barren hills are given as a gratuitous appendage.

The lands of Loudon county, exhausted more than twenty years ago by successive crops of tobacco, now give luxuriant crops of Indian corn, in consequence of the above mentioned culture. Improved lots, from three to five hundred acres, are sold from twenty-three to twenty-five dollars per acre, on account of their fertility and vicinity to

sea-ports. A great portion of Loudon county has been purchased by farmers from Pensylvania or New Jersey.

The Loudon farmer often sells his lands at twenty-five or thirty-five dollars per acre, and purchases others equally good in Prince William, Stafford, or Franquier counties, where they are worked by negroes, for one third less than the former.

The lands at some distance from the Potomac and Rappahanoc rivers, produce oak, gum, and other forest trees, which thrive best in a clayey soil. Where sands prevail, pine and red cedar grow. The latter is employed for posts or wattled fencing. The soil which had been exhausted by tobacco is now covered with black cattle, which are fed on red clover, or Indian corn. The soil is generally rich, but the country is unhealthy. The land-holders, in the sickly season, fly to the hilly regions, leaving their houses and plantations to overseers and slaves.

The waters abound with a variety of fish and excellent oysters.

The lands of Fairfax County, within a few miles from Alexandria, sell from ten to twenty dollars per acre, and some highly-improved spots at thirty dollars. They are

cultivated in the old Virginia fashion. After showers of rain, followed by a warm sun, vegetation is uncommonly rapid. Farmers say, that Indian corn has been found to shoot up seven inches in twenty-four hours, and the pumpkin-stem eighteen; that they can hear the corn grow, which, in one sense, may be true, as the envelopement of the grain bursts with a crackling noise.

ANNALOSTAN ISLAND.

Annalostan Island, the seat of General Mason, is situated in the river Potomac, opposite Georgetown, and contains nearly seventy acres. A flat boat, of a rude construction, awkwardly impelled by an oar, placed near each extremity, affords a safe conveyance between the island and the main land, a distance of about two hundred yards. The profits of the ferry are rented by General Mason for the sum of seven hundred dollars a year. Before the erection of the Potomac bridge, it yielded more than double this

amount. On one side, the island is now connected with the main land by an artificial mound, or causeway, which was raised at the expense of the government, for the purpose of stopping the current on this side of the island, and thereby increasing the depth of the water in the Georgetown Channel. This current, in 1784, was considerably deepened by the passage of an immense quantity of ice, that forced itself down after a sudden thaw, and carried with it large masses of the muddy bottom. The Georgetown Channel has been but little deepened by the erection of this causeway. Mr. Custis proposed to open a passage for vessels by means of floodgates: he observes, that there were formerly from fifteen to twenty-six feet of water in this channel. Near the close of the year 1810, it was proposed to confine the current by mechanical means, and to remove the soft bottom by increasing the velocity of the water. For this purpose, the corporation of Georgetown entered into a contract with the proprietor of this plan, engaging to pay the sum of eight thousand dollars for its execution, with the guarantee of its duration for the space of two years. If, at the expiration

of this time, there remained fifteen feet depth of water from the Eastern branch to Georgetown, they were to receive an additional sum of two thousand dollars; otherwise, to expend from their own funds, for other necessary labours, a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars.

Annalostan Island is evidently of modern formation. In searching for water, a mass of trees was discovered at the depth of fifteen feet. General Mason instructed a workman (Bryan Duffy) to cut through them. After having removed several of large dimensions, he threw aside his axe, swearing by J——s "that he now met huge ones with their tops upwards." In other places, water was found at the depth of twenty-five or thirty feet. The highest eminence, on which the house stands, is fifty feet above the level of the river. The common tide rises to the height of three feet. I can never forget how delighted I was with my first visit to this island. The amiable ladies whom I had the pleasure to accompany, left their carriage at Georgetown, and we walked to the mansion-house under a delicious shade. The blossoms of the cherry, apple, and peach trees, of the

hawthorn and aromatic shrubs, filled the air with their fragrance. We found Mrs. M. at home, in the midst of her family, composed of nine children. Twin boys, of a healthy mien, and so like each other as scarcely to be distinguished, were tumbling on the carpet of the saloon, full of joy and merriment. Mrs. M. has so youthful an appearance, that a stranger might readily suppose her to be the sister of her daughter rather than her mother.

The house, of a simple and neat form, is situated near that side of the island which commands a view of the Potomac, the President's House, Capitol, and other buildings. The garden, the sides of which are washed by the waters of the river, is ornamented with a variety of trees and shrubs, and, in the midst, there is a lawn covered with a beautiful verdure.

In July, 1811, Mrs. M. gave a rural dance to the friends and acquaintance of her son, at the eve of his departure for France. Though the weather had been excessively warm during the day, in the evening there was a delicious breeze. The young people danced on the lawn. Tea, coffee, cakes, fresh and pre-

served fruits, were presented to the guests, who sat or walked about conversing, or silently admiring the dance under the shade of trees, illuminated by lamps, which were half obscured by the bright light of the moon. The summer-house is shaded by oak and linden-trees, the coolness and tranquillity of which invite to contemplation. The refreshing breezes of the Potomac, and the gentle murmuring of its waters against the rocks, the warbling of birds, and the mournful aspect of weeping-willows, inspire a thousand various sensations. What a delicious shade—

"Ducere solicitæ jucunda oblivia vitæ."

The view from this spot is delightful. It embraces the picturesque banks of the Potomac, a portion of the city, and an expanse of water, of which the bridge terminates the view. Numerous vessels ply backwards and forwards to animate the scene. Directing the eye over a corner of the garden, we perceive the sails only, as if by enchantment, gliding through the trees. A few feet below the summer-house the rocks afford seats, where those who are fond of fishing may indulge in this amusement. From the portico on the oppo-

site side of the house, Georgetown, Calorama, the beautiful seat of Joel Barlow, Esq. and the adjacent finely-wooded hills, appear through a vista. To the left there is a prospect of the fields and woods on the opposite banks of the river. Every part of the island is romantic. Hawthorn and cedar hedges, and an improved cultivation, indicate taste and agricultural knowledge. By means of an hydraulic machine, water may be easily raised from the river, and conducted by pipes to every part of the surface.

This island has a great variety of trees and shrubs, owing to the seeds brought by the stream from mountainous regions—different species of oak, walnut, mulberry, poplar, locust, ash, willow, the papaw[1] and spindle tree, or burning-bush[2].

At the summer-house there is a white walnut[3] of about a foot in diameter, perforated by a grape vine of three inches in circumference, which has been squeezed to death by the growth of the tree.

[1] Anona triloba.—*Pers. Syn.*

[2] Orchidocarpum triloba.—*Mich.*

[3] Juglans cathartica.—*Mich.*

Near the causey there is a species of eglantine, thirty feet in length, and three inches in diameter, which is supported by a neighbouring friendly tree.

The poison-oak, or poison-vine[1], grows here, and entwines itself among trees, but is easily distinguished by the mossy appearance of its stem. Its touch creates an irruption over the body, which is usually accompanied with fever; and this disease is said to renew itself yearly about the time of the first attack. The poison-ash, or fringe-tree[2], grows at the extremity of the island, near the causey. A foreign plant of this species was sent to General Mason as a curiosity, and it was recognised by a farmer, unacquainted with botany, to be the same as that which inhabits the American woods.

The Virginia jessamine[3] grows in all parts of the island, entwining itself among trees and bushes. It flowers in June. The flowers, during sun-shine, are infested with red ants[4].

[1] Rhus toxicodendron.—*Mich.*

[2] Rhus vernixe.

[3] Bignonia radicans.

[4] Formica rubra.

Several species of asclepias grow here.—That with purple flowers, which blows in July, contains in its seed capsules, a kind of silk, which, mixed with cotton, forms a very durable thread.

The asclepias with orange flowers is here called pleurisy-root, a name derived from this malady, for which it is supposed to be a sovereign remedy. A decoction of the root is a powerful sudorific, and is employed by the blacks as a cure for all diseases.

The crimson flowers of the American red-bud, or Judas-tree [1], appear early in spring, and have a fine effect.

The sassafras-tree [2] thrives well here: its leaves are the first which change their colour in autumn. Mrs. M. informed me, that an infusion of them affords a beverage of a pleasant aromatic taste, which might be employed as a substitute for tea.

General Mason cultivates, for the use of his family, a species of cotton of the colour of nankeen, which is spun and woven with facility, and wears well without losing its

[1] Bercis Canadensis.

[2] Laurus sassafras.

natural hue. Great pains were taken to prevent its sexual intercourse with other species of cotton, and yet its colour is not uniform. Some pods have a shade of yellow, others are whitish, and must be separated from those of the natural nankeen colour. If some shades remain it is no disadvantage, as the colour becomes uniform by the operation of carding. General Mason, not knowing how he obtained this species of cotton, conjectured that the seeds had been brought from China or India. On my voyage to France, on board the Constitution frigate, I was one day perusing a small volume, entitled, " An Epitome of the History of Malta and Gozo," by Charles Wilkinson, lent to me by the purser, Mr. Garretson; in which it is stated, that three kinds of cotton are there cultivated, and that one, imported from the Antilles, is of a cinnamon colour. Mr. Morris, first lieutenant of the frigate, with whom I happened to converse on this subject, informed me, that he had carried some of the seeds of this species to General Mason, from his brother-in-law then at Naples, and not finding the former at home when he called to deliver this present,

he left the seed, without any indication concerning its origin.

This author observes, that the seed is sown in April; that the head of the plant is cut in September to let the cotton spread, which is gathered in October; that the plants are left in the ground three or four years, and are staked every spring, like raspberry-plants in England; that this method saves the trouble of annual sowing and cultivation; and he adds, that a square piece of fruitful soil, containing four hundred and twenty geometrical yards, produces five hundred pounds of cotton.

The soil of General Mason's island, and of neighbouring tracts of land, is good for cotton, but the summer is not long enough to bring the plant to maturity; and it is liable to be injured by frost before it is ripe.

General Mason cultivates a species of maize (zea-mays), the leaves of which, of a deep purple colour, are employed as a dye. For this purpose, they are gathered before the grain ripens, when they contain the greatest quantity of sap. With mordants of alum and copperas, wool is dyed of different shades of purple. The plant is vigorous, and has a great number of grains. I had the honour of

presenting some of the seeds to the Empress Josephine, who sowed them with her own hand in the gardens of Malmaison, where they gave a luxuriant produce.

This island is the resort of various reptiles. We found the nest of the terrapin[1], or fresh-water turtle, in the garden, at the distance of about thirty feet from the water, containing nineteen eggs, laid close to each other, and the interstices filled with earth. The greater circumference of the egg was four inches and a half; the lesser, three. The nest, or hole, was of an oval form, and four inches in depth. The eggs of this species are deposited from the first of June to the middle of July. Before the turtle commences the formation of the hole for her eggs, she urines on the spot, then scrapes out a little earth, again urines, and thus continues until the operation is finished. I saw another nest, from which the turtle was taken at the moment when she had placed herself in an almost erect position to deposit her eggs, which she always performs during the day, and, it is said, never returns to the spot. The young ones are hatched by the heat of the sun, and are sup-

[1] *Testudo concentrica*, or *concentric tortoise*.

posed to remain in the nest till spring. Several persons, whom I consulted on this subject, assured me, that they have turned them up with the plough at this season. The turtle, when shaken before she lays her eggs, makes a hollow noise, as if she contained water. One in this state weighed six pounds, which, it appears, is the common size. The species known by the name of the terrapin is very shy, and ceases to walk as soon as it sees a person approach near it. When endeavouring to escape, it runs nearly as fast as a duck. The blacks make soup and eat the eggs of this species, of which they are very fond.

The snapping turtle[1] is also seen in the waters of this river, some of which weigh from forty to fifty pounds, and lay forty or fifty eggs. General Mason, some years ago, caught one of a huge size, which he threw into his canoe, and it attacked him so furiously therein, that he was obliged to leap into the water. The reptile followed, and thus made its escape. Its bite is severe and dangerous.

Two species of fresh-water tortoise inhabit

[1] *Testudo ferox.*

the island; namely, the painted tortoise, *emys picta* or *testudo picta,* and the streaked tortoise, *emys virgulata.* The sternum of the first, with ten compartments, is almost as long as the shell, truncated at the extremities, and solidly united to the shell, of which the plates of the disk, thirteen in number, are bordered with irregular yellow stripes. In its circumference there are twenty-five pieces. The anterior part is narrow, and nearly of an equal breadth: the head is flattened, of a blackish colour, with yellow spots. The anterior feet are half-palmated, and the hinder are wholly palmated. The tail appears considerably beyond the shell[1]. The other species has been described by Bosc, under the name of *emyde,* or fresh-water turtle; by Latreille, under that of the small striped turtle; and by Lacepede, under that of *la bombée*[2].

[1] It is described by Schoepff, tab. IV. By Shaw, tab. X. and by Seba, *Novæ Hispaniæ,* pl. 80, n°. 5.

[2] See Dict. d'Hist. Natur. de *Deterville,* tom. 22. p. 266. Buffon in 18, tom. 13. p. 100. fig. I. *La bombée,* Lacepède. Rept. tom. 1. This information was politely communicated to me by Professor *Dumeril,* who exhibits these specimens in his interesting Lectures on Reptiles at the Garden of Plants.

The head of the painted turtle manifested symptoms of life two hours after decapitation. Three cherry stones were found in the stomach. It is said that small snails are its daily food. This species is not eaten. The musk-rat[1] inhabits the banks of this island. The surface being now cleared, there is no place for its habitation, which was formerly constructed of vegetable substances, in the midst of the reeds of a marsh, and was generally five or six feet in height, and as many in breadth. The family reposed in a dry and neat apartment above the surface of the water, into which they descended when attacked, and retreated by a subterraneous passage to a neighbouring stream. If the family were numerous, there were three such passages; if otherwise, one or two only. A method of taking them, practised by the savages, was to discover and intercept this communication, by means of knots of twisted grass. The animal then returned to the water under its abode, where, forced to seek air, it shewed its head, and was struck dead with a stick or club. The musk-rat abounds in the swamp

[1] Castor zibethicus.

adjoining the Potomac Bridge, and is killed by the blacks in a curious manner. A square board, bearing a considerable weight of stones or mud, is placed in an inclined position, and is supported by three sticks in a particular manner. Parsnips are put underneath, of which the rats are very fond; while devouring them, they necessarily move one of these sticks, by which the board suddenly falls, and crushes them to death. The skin sells at twenty-five cents.

The deer, wild turkey, canvas-back duck[1], and wild goose, which inhabited this place about fifty years ago, have all disappeared. This species of duck, so delicious to the taste, was then sold for sixpence.

The following method was formerly employed to kill the wild goose[2]. This bird, shy and cunning, feeds in the midst of a plain or open field, and forms a regular line, at the extremity of which is placed a centinel, to give warning in case of danger, which, if remote, is indicated by a certain position of

[1] Supposed to be the *anas ferna* of Linnæus, or mildorin of Buffon.

[2] Anser Canadensis.

the head, and if imminent, by a certain cry. The sportsman, by means of a docile horse, which concealed him from the view, approached slowly, until he brought them within the reach of his gun.

By an act of 1730, the shooting of deer was prohibited from the first of January to the first of August. The penalty was four hundred pounds of tobacco. By other acts of 1728, any master, mistress, owner of a family, or single taxeable person, was obliged to produce yearly, to the justice of the county, three squirrel-scalps, or crows' heads. The penalty in this case was three pounds of tobacco. A premium of two pounds was given for every scalp more than three. The reward for a wolf's head was two hundred pounds.

Annalostan Island abounds with birds of various kinds. The cat-bird [1] is almost tame. When its nest is in danger, it makes a loud noise, and seems as if it would tear the face of the person who approaches it. We saw in the garden a partridge nest, containing nineteen eggs. The humming-bird [2] frequents

[1] Muscicapa vertice nigra.—Catesby.

[2] Trochilus colubris.

this place. When caught, it feigns death, like the opossum [1], and, by this means, escapes from the hand. We saw one thus escape from the pretty hand of Mrs. B——e.

The mocking-bird [2] does not frequent this island, though it is seen on the adjacent borders of the river. Perhaps it has been expelled by the crow black-bird [3], its natural enemy, which swarms in this place. It is a pity that so enchanting a spot is deprived of the notes of this inimitable songster.

General Mason, who has contributed so much to the introduction and propagation of the Merino breed of sheep, furnished us with the annexed table, interesting to farmers.

[1] Didelphis opossum.
[2] Turdus polyglottus.
[3] Gracula quiscula.

Exhibiting Columbia, *in February,* 1814, *which was presented* Representatives, *in compliance with their Resolutio*

BANKS.	S.	Treasury Notes.	Notes of other Banks.	Due from other Banks.	Specie.	Real State, expenses paid, etc.
Bank of Washin		- -	55,760	168,750 53	81,996 73	12,539 10
Bank of Columb	26	229,000	222,606 94	695,895 39	171,110 66	70,528 81
Union Bank o George town	47	- -	67,254 78	32,325 16	87,864 98	11,241 44
Bank of Alexan		- -	170,586 59	25,524 43	126,781 94	69,538
Bank of Potom		- -	108,619 28	25,973 90	140,097 11	40,261
Farmers' Bank Alexandria		180,000	53,597	49,425	54,716	1,981
Mechanics' Ba of Alexandri		28,300	68,868 78	69,434	22,433 77	14,444

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General Mason, who has contributed so much to the introduction and propagation of the Merino breed of sheep, furnished us with the annexed table, interesting to farmers.

[1] Didelphis opossum.
[2] Turdus polyglottus.
[3] Gracula quiscula.

A STATEMENT

Exhibiting the Situation of the Affairs of the Banks in the District of Columbia, in February, 1814, which was presented by the Secretary of the Treasury Department to the House of Representatives, in compliance with their Resolution to this effect.

BANKS.	Date of Returns.	Capital authorised by law.	Capital actually paid in.	Notes in circulation.	Due to other Banks	Deposits by Government and by individuals, discount and interest received etc.	Bills and Notes discounted.	Stock of the U. S.	Treasury Notes.	Notes of other Banks.	Due from other Banks.	Specie.	Real State. expenses paid, etc.
	1814.												
Bank of Washington	February 14	500,000	346,665	259,750	256,196 39	251,759 12	600,304 15	175,000	- -	55,760	168,750 53	81,996 73	12,539 10
Bank of Columbia	February 16	1,000,000	859,560	489,598 67	590,387 44	1,260,572 12	1,440,256 10	370,720 26	229,000	222,606 94	695,895 39	171,110 66	70,528 81
Union Bank of Georgetown	January 1	500,000	405,170	360,965	95,858 07	187,413 05	706,993 29	143,726 47	- -	67,254 78	32,315 16	87,864 98	11,241 44
Bank of Alexandria	February 17	500,000	480,000	182,900 87	- -	497,477 09	667,947	100,000	- -	170,586 59	25,524 43	126,781 91	69,538
Bank of Potomac	February 12	500,000	500,000	235,514 10	155,394 28	128,185 19	604,242 28	100,000	- -	108,619 28	25,073 90	140,097 11	40,261
Farmers' Bank of Alexandria	February 9	500,000	310,000	195,490	135,674	87,968	400,513	- -	180,000	53,597	49,425	54,716	1,981
Mechanics' Bank of Alexandria	February 19	500,000	270,460	278,770	78,792	95,222 35	519,764	- -	28,300	68,868 78	69,434	22,433 77	14,444

ARLINGTON.

Arlington, the seat of George William Custis, Esq.[1] is situated on one of the highest points of those rising hills which serve to adorn the city. This place was formerly the seat of Government, where hostages and prisoners of state were kept. We observed a monument, which contains the following curious inscription :—

" Here lies the body of the Honourable John Custis, who died aged 77, and yet lived but seven ;" alluding to the period of his life as a Virginia bachelor. Mr. Custis has been much occupied with agricultural pursuits. For several years past he has given, at his own expense, an annual fête, at which the neighbouring farmers exhibit their finest sheep and cattle, and best productions of the loom. Prizes are distributed; after which the visitors dine under a range of tents, one of which belonged to the illustrious Washington, on whose virtues he loves to dwell, when he addresses his rural guests on the subject of the institution. He complains that

[1] Grandson of Washington.

no public monument records his worth :— " Say, my dear Sir, when you return to Europe, that under the pretorium of virtue, the canvas sacred to freedom, you drank in native beverage to the memory of freedom's immortal son. Say, that this relic of the revolution is preserved with hallowed reverence, and is devoted to honour the anniversary of an institution, whose objects were most dear to the heart of its departed master —the promotion of industry and independence[1]."

Mr. Custis relates an anecdote of an old grey-haired soldier, who, on his way from one of the northern states to Carolina, visited Mount Vernon, shortly after the death of Washington, in order to see his mansion and his tomb; and when he approached the humble mound which contains his remains, exclaimed — " If it is here my country has buried my general, where, in the name of God, would they bury me?"

Mr. Custis proposes to erect a public monument, or tomb, of the following description :—

[1] Letter to the Author.

" Upon an elevation of eighteen steps, a basis is formed, from which arise as many pillars to support an enormous stone. The steps and pillars represent the federative union of states and districts, and are to be of one piece, short and massy for the support of the stone, which, by its pressure, will close the cemetery that, within the area of the pillars, has received the body."

The late Mr. Blodget proposed to erect a national monument, by private subscription, on the plan of the Timoleonton, of Syracuse. Every American, of both sexes and every age, is invited to furnish a stone for the pile of the beloved Chief. In the centre of a fine academy is to be placed an equestrian statue of Washington. Foreigners may enrich by presents the academical institution, but *procul profani*—they are not permitted to contribute to the erection of the monument, the glory of which is reserved for those only who are fellow-citizens of the sage, whom Greece would have thus honoured. The trustees appointed to superintend the execution of this plan, are Bushrod Washington, John Marshal, and Benjamin Stoddard: the two first are judges of the Supreme Court of the

United States; the last was lately secretary of the navy. Mr. Custis deserves praise for the zeal with which he encourages agricultural improvements.

BLADENSBURG.

The establishment of George Calvert, Esq. at Bladensburg, attracts attention. His mansion, consisting of two stories, seventy feet in length, and thirty-six in breadth, is admirably adapted to the American climate. On each side there is a large portico, which shelters from the sun, rain, or snow. The hall is ornamented with lemon-trees, geraniums, polianthusses, heliotropes, and other plants, which, in the summer evenings, invite the humming-birds to taste of their sweetness; and afterwards struggling to escape, they fly incessantly backwards and forwards near the cieling, until from fatigue they perch on a stick or rod, when they are easily taken by the hand. In the saloon there are some fine paintings, particularly Noah's Ark, by Velvet

Breughell; the Judgment of Paris, and the portrait of Rubens, by this great master, of whom Mrs. Calvert is a relation.

Mr. Calvert is a good agriculturalist, as is evident from his plan of rotation of crops, artificial grasses, hawthorn hedges, and a fine breed of horses and cattle. His farm consists of fifteen hundred acres, for the cultivation of which thirty-six oxen and twenty-four horses and mules are employed. In winter, the former are fed on hay, and in summer on cut grass and clover : the horses and mules on maize, or corn in the ear, or rye mixed with cut straw. Neither horses nor oxen are suffered to pasture in the fields before the commencement of July. The milch cows are always housed at night. During many years, tobacco was the staple production of this district, of which a considerable quantity is still cultivated. An acre usually yields a hogshead, or a thousand pounds, which sells from six to ten dollars. Last season Mr. Calvert had a hundred and twelve hogsheads. The farmers of this district have several crops on hand, owing to the present low price, and the chance of a higher. The tobacco plant thrives well in this soil, which is a mixture

of sand and loam. Wheat is now more profitable than tobacco. Some tracts yield thirty bushels per acre; others not more than ten. Barley is not cultivated. The expenses of the farm are defrayed by the profits of the sale of hogs, pork, beef, lambs, and wheat. The price of cows is from twelve to forty dollars; of horses, from forty to eighty; that of mules, from seventy to a hundred. The price of sheep is about two dollars; and hogs from five to eight per hundred weight. Cider is twelve cents per gallon; whiskey, fifty. Wheat, a dollar and twelve cents per bushel. The common price of a day labourer, including nourishment, is half a dollar per day; that of a mechanic is double this sum. The harvest begins the latter end of June, or first of July. The seed time is in October.

This district abounds with oaks of different species—white, black, red, willow, etc. The wood of the first, which grows in low places, is much esteemed. The black is seen in elevated situations, and the willow species on the borders of streams. Birch, magnolia, sweet-gum [1], and tulip-tree [2], grow here. Of

[1] Liquidambar styraciflua.

[2] Lyriodendron tulipifera.

the last there is a tree near Mr. Calvert's house, of remarkable beauty. The wild strawberry[1], of a delicious flavour, is so abundant near the Patuxent river, that no one takes the trouble of cultivating this fruit in gardens.

The grey and the red fox frequent this region, and sometimes carry off pigs, lambs, and poultry. Racoons[2], opossums[3], and wild rabbits, are often seen in the woods. The snakes had made their appearance when we visited this place on the 27th of April, 1812.

Near the village of Bladensburg, in the midst of a wood belonging to Mr. Calvert, there is a chalybeate, similar to that near this village, which we shall hereafter notice.

Before the American revolution, Bladensburg carried on a considerable commerce in tobacco. Like all the American villages which depended on this article for their support, it has gone to decay. This commerce was carried on chiefly by Scotch agents, who,

[1] Fragaria vesca.

[2] Ursus lotor.

[3] Didelphis marsupialis.

from attachment to their king, fled to their native home; and a new order of things having destroyed commercial monopoly, few of them returned to their former residence.

Bladensburg now presents a miserable aspect. The curing and packing of herrings is the only branch of industry which remains, although the river at full tide has seven or eight feet of water, on which boats ply backwards and forwards to Washington.

The mineral spring is pleasantly situated on the side of the stream, near a fine clump of trees at the entrance of the village. It would not require much expense to make this an agreeable watering place. A tannery has been lately erected on the opposite side of the stream, the effluvia of which are disagreeable when the wind is from that quarter. By means of a thermometer, which Mr. Diggs politely procured, we found the temperature of the water to be 55½°. Some years ago, a public bath was constructed near the spring, but the temperature was found to be disagreeably cold, and it was entirely abandoned. The waters are light and agreeable, and are drank, during summer, by vale-

tudinarians from Washington, and other neighbouring places. They are employed for culinary purposes by the people of the village.

In the year 1804, the surface around the springs was completely inundated, and after the flood had subsided to the level of the mineral waters, their current was not greater than usual, which proves that it is not sensibly affected by the rains. During the autumnal season, this place is subject to bilious and intermitting fevers.

GREENWOOD, THE SEAT OF MRS. CRAWFORD.

Greenwood is finely situated on the south west branch of the Potomac. This stream traverses a valley covered with majestic trees, which afford a cool shade during the hottest weather. Tobacco has long been the staple production, but the increasing cheapness of this article has induced many planters to abandon its cultivation for that of wheat. The best quality of tobacco of this tract is

sold at four, and the worst at two dollars per cwt. The price of the first was formerly sixteen, and the latter eight dollars. An acre of good soil yields a hogshead, which weighs about a thousand pounds; and the same surface will give from fifteen to twenty bushels of wheat, which, last year, was sold at a dollar and eighty-four cents per bushel. Slaves are numerous. It was observed to me, by the planters of this district, that tobacco is the only crop which gives them constant employment. The horse-road from Washington to Greenwood leads across the Annacostia river, or eastern branch of the Potomac, over which there is a drawbridge for the passage of vessels. On leaving this bridge, the road passes over the summit of an elevated hill, which commands a superb view of the Potomac river, with its eastern branch, and the rich scenery on either side—a scene worthy of the pencil of a Claude Lorrain. What a delicious spot for a summer's residence. The axe has made great havoc among the trees, but the young shoots, if protected, would soon form a fine shade. The road to Greenwood is extremely romantic, adorned with the flowering laurel, with

honey-suckle, and foliage of the most variegated hues. There is no direction post, and but few cabins near the road, so that a stranger, without precaution, may lose himself in the woods.

RESIDENCE OF HARRISON SMITH, ESQ.

Late Editor of the *National Intelligencer.*

This is a beautiful retreat. The surrounding little hills, covered with trees, are truly romantic. The road thither from Washington, leading through woods, is so tortuous and shaded, that a person unacquainted with it may readily go astray, which a lover of picturesque scenery will not regret. There is no direction post, and it is rather a bridle than a carriage way.

This place, containing about a hundred and sixty acres, was purchased about ten years ago at ten dollars per acre. The soil is generally sandy, though in the little vallies the sand is mixed with clay and vegetable

mould, which the rain carries down from the steep sides of the adjacent hills.

On the 4th of June, 1811, we here witnessed a most tremendous storm of rain and hail, accompanied with lightning and awful peals of thunder. Large chesnut and oak-trees near the house were broken, the fences were levelled, and all around was a scene of desolation. The weather had been for some time uncommonly dry. On the day preceding the storm, a strong wind prevailed, which carried the dust from the roads into the air in the form of dark clouds. It is worthy of remark, that at certain moments, the sound of the Little Falls, several miles distant, is distinctly heard at this place. Near Mr. Smith's house there is a dry channel of considerable depth, which contains petrified wood of different species, easily distinguished by the bark and grain.

At a small distance, in an opposite direction, there is a mineral chalybeate spring, of which the temperature in July was 62° of Fahrenheit. Near it there is a miserable hut, formed of rude boards, and just large enough to contain a bed and two old chairs. The

poor woman who inhabits it, supports herself by spinning cotton and wool, and dying those substances with the root and bark of trees. Mrs. Smith proposed to place her in a family, where her useful experience in this art would have procured her a comfortable existence. She refused the offer, observing, that independence, however humble, was far preferable. This is the proud sentiment which animates the poorest class of American citizens. The cabins of this district are far from being comfortable. They are rented from year to year with a spot of land, and consequently the tenant has no encouragement to make improvements.

In the bosom of the woods, near the habitation of Mr. Smith, there is a church, around which there is a place of interment, where lie the remains of some distinguished persons of this district.

Mr. Smith's house, built of brick, has an agreeable situation, where he found excellent water at the depth of seventy-three feet, which he proposes to conduct to the kitchen and other parts of the building by means of conduits. The expenses of this well

amounted to two hundred and eighty-eight dollars, viz.

For digging and walling . . .	100
For bricks	50
Carriage of bricks	16
Cleaning the well	7
Wood and iron work of the pumps	115
	288 dollars.

The following trees and shrubs grow in this romantic place:—

Willow-Oak . . .	*Quercus phellos*
Chesnut Oak . . .	*Quercus prinus.*
Persimon Tree . .	*Diospyros Virginiana.*
Tulip Tree . . .	*Liriodendrom tulipifera.*
Fringe Tree . . .	*Chionanthus Virginica.*
Crab Apple Tree . .	*Malus coronaria.*
Thorn of different species.	
Maple (red flowering)	*Acer rubrum.*
Locust (water) . .	*Gleditzia monosperma.*
——— (sweet) . .	——— *triacanthos.*
Dog Wood . . .	*Cornus florida.*
Walnut (black) . .	*Juglans nigra.*
Chinkapin. . . .	*Fagus pumila.*
Sassafras	*Laurus sassafras.*
Magnolia	*Glauca* and *tripetala.*
Wild Grape of different kinds.	
Alder	*Alnus serrulata.*

Ash (red) . . .	*Fraxinus tomentosa.*
—— (green) . . .	——— *viridis.*
Sweet Gum . . .	*Liquidambar styraciflua.*
Birch (black) . .	*Betula lenta.*
—— (yellow) . .	——— *lutea.*
—— (red) . . .	——— *rubra.*

The persimon tree abounds here. The juice of its ripe fruit is employed to make a species of beer. Sugar is extracted from it, and also a fine liquor, which improves by age. The fruit contains a sufficient quantity of saccharine matter for its preservation in the form of sweet-meats. In this district, the bark of the crab-tree is employed to dye wool of a black colour; a mixture of the bark of maple and chesnut, for purple; that of dog-wood, for a pink colour; and that of the root of the sassafras gives a fine yellow. The flowers of this last tree serve to make a species of beer; and a decoction of the bark of its root is often administered as a cure for ague, and also for "purifying and thinning the blood." The fruit of the chincapin is agreeable to the taste.

Two insects abound in this place, and torment the lovers of nature; the wood-louse[1]

[1] Acarus Americanus, L.—A species of *Zecca.*

and musquito[2]. The former, nearly the size of a common louse, conceals itself under the skin, and clings closely to the flesh, from which it is not easily extricated. Its colour is reddish, which becomes paler when the insect is satiated with blood. The bite excites considerable inflammation, and, in the eye or ear, might be attended with dangerous consequences. The bite of the musquito also creates inflammation, and it annoys the ear of the pensive or studious by its unpleasant buzz.

OF THE COMMERCE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The district of Columbia, situated in the midst of a fertile country, at nearly an equal distance from the northern and southern frontiers, and intersected by navigable rivers, will necessarily become a place of great commerce. We have already given some account

[2] Culex pipiens, L.

of that of Georgetown and Alexandria (the two successful rivals of Washington city), with the exception of the indigenal trade, which we shall briefly notice before we enter upon an examination of the commercial communication with the western countries. This trade, under the direction of the government, is superintended by an agent[1], who has an office at Georgetown, where instructions are given concerning the sales of furs, peltries, and other Indian articles received from the trading houses on the Missouri, Mississippi, and the Lakes. These consist of the skins of beaver, deer, elk, buffaloe, tallow, candles, and Indian mats. In exchange, the Indians receive shirts, coarse cloths, silver ornaments, ammunition and guns, kettles of tin and sheet iron, traps for catching beaver and other animals, jews-harps, rings, and trinkets. A hundred thousand dollars a year are employed in this trade.

For Fort Osage, on the Missouri, distant two thousand miles, the goods are transported in the following manner:—

1st.—Up the Potomac two hundred and

[1] General Mason.

twenty miles; then overland to Brownsville, on the Monongahela, a branch of the Ohio, twenty-five miles; thence down the Ohio to its junction with the Mississippi; up the Mississippi to St. Louis, and afterwards by the Missouri to Fort Osage.

2d.—For Lake Erie, the goods are sent from Georgetown to Cincinnati on the Ohio, as above mentioned; thence up the great Miami of the Ohio to its farthest point of navigation at Lorimer's Store, thence overland thirty-five miles to Fort Wayne, on the Miami of the Lakes; and down this river to Lake Erie.

3d.—For the Mobile, the goods are sent from Georgetown to Brownsville as above; thence down the Monongahela and the Ohio, to the mouth of the Tenessee river; up this river to the Mussel Shoals, or to Colbert's Ferry; thence overland to the Tom Bigbee, at the junction of a branch of that river named the Yibby, about a hundred and twenty miles; thence down the Tom Bigbee to the Mobile [1].

[1] These particulars were obligingly communicated to us by the Superintendant of the Indian trade.

TRADE OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES.

The Potomac river, on account of its proximity to the western waters, the facility of its navigation for ships of burthen to the distance of two hundred miles from the ocean, and the mildness of the climate of those regions which it traverses, will probably become the great channel of trade of the country west of Lake Erie, of the Ohio, and upper parts of the Mississippi. A communication with Lake Erie may be formed by means of the Cayahaga, or Cayuga river, the Big Beaver, Ohio, Yohogany, or by the Monongahela and Cheat river, and the Potomac. By this channel there are but two portages—the first between Cayahaga and Beaver; the second, from the waters of the Ohio to the Potomac, a distance which, when the navigation is improved, will not probably be more than fifteen or twenty miles.

The rivers Cayahaga and Beaver issue from lakes situated near each other in a flat country, and their waters may be easily united[1].

[1] Jefferson's Notes on Virginia.

The government is now executing a road from Cumberland on the Potomac, to Brownsville, or Red Stone Old Fort on the Monongahela, seventy-two miles in length, which will be of great utility[1]. In the direction of the new road from Cumberland to Wheeling, the distance between the navigable waters of the Monongahela and Potomac is not more than seventy miles. It was determined by the American Congress, that the ascent of this road should no where make an angle with the horizon of more than five degrees; and this has been found practicable, though the ridge of mountains at Cumberland is two thousand two hundred and sixty feet above the bed of the Potomac; and at Brownsville, two thousand one hundred and fifty feet above that of the Monongahela.

The public road, which connects the Potomac with the western country, will become the channel of a portion of that trade monopolised by the British North-West Company, or carried on by the St. Lawrence, and across the Lakes to the Illinois river. It is a curious

[1] See Mease's Geological Account of the United States.

fact, that goods thus transported were sold cheaper at this river, as far down as the Ohio, than goods carried up the Mississippi, owing to the rapidity of the latter river, which is much greater than that of the St. Lawrence[1].

The trade of the Illinois country, of great value, will also follow the course of the Potomac. The climate and soil of this region, of which Kaskaskia is the capital, are very similar to those of Provence in France. Captain Hutchins informs us, that certain French settlers, as early as 1769, made a hundred and ten hogsheads of pleasant wine from the grapes of the wild vine. He also states, that the mulberry tree[2] delights in this soil, and the silk-worm thrives. Tobacco and indigo are successfully cultivated. The rivers abound with fish—the woods with game.

The Potomac, however, will have two great rival channels of trade. It is proposed by the citizens of Pensylvania to form a communication between Philadelphia and Lake Erie,

[1] The mean current of the Mississippi is three and a half miles per hour; and, during the spring floods, it runs at the rate of five miles.

[2] Morus rubra.

by uniting the waters of the Schuylkill and Susquehanna with those of the Ohio. The Swetara creek, which empties into the river Susquehanna, is to be united with the Quitapahilla, a distance of thirty-five miles; and the latter to a canal, extending to the Skuylkill, at the mouth of the Tulpehoken, a distance of thirty miles.

By the Juniata river there is an almost uninterrupted communication between the Susquehanna, and the Ohio at Pittsburg—a distance of two hundred and sixty-two miles. The whole length of this route is said to be five hundred and sixty miles, and there are but two postages. The first from Juniata to Conemaugh—a distance of eighteen miles; and from Le Bœuf to Presqu'ile, fifteen miles. The navigation of the lower part of the Susquehanna is said to be very difficult, and especially in places where it is impossible to run a canal along its banks.

Another channel of communication has also been proposed—from Lake Ontario to the east branch of the Delaware, and thence to Philadelphia. The Cayuga, or Kioga river is navigable for boats to the distance of fifty miles from its mouth—and its sources to

the north-west are but a few miles from the Chenengo river, which empties into Lake Ontario.

The distances are as follow:—

From the mouth of Tioga to Newton . .	18 miles.
Portage to Seneca Lake	18
Lock navigation to be formed by Newton Creek down to Connedessago Lake . .	36
Down Seneca, or Onondago river to Oswego or Ontario	86
	158 miles.

It is also proposed to connect the head of Seneca Lake with the Tioga branch of the Susquehanna, at Newton; and to pursue the following route to Philadelphia:—

From Seneca Lake to Tioga Point . . .	39 miles.
From Tioga Point to Nescopeck on the Susquehanna	121
Nescopeck to Lausanne	28
Lausanne to Easton	45
Easton to Philadelphia	87
In all	320 miles,

of which forty-nine only are by land [1].

[1] See Duane's excellent Treatise on Canals.

Some enlightened and patriotic citizens of the State of New York have proposed to form a channel of communication for the trade of the lakes and the western country by means of a canal, which is to connect the Hudson river with Lake Erie, extending from the Mohawk to Wood Creek; thence to Oneida Lake; along that Lake and Seneca river and Mud Creek to the Genessee river; and thence to the Cataragus, or to the Panawanda Creek, which empties into Lake Erie. Throughout this distance the country is level, and few locks will be necessary. Below the Mohawk the navigation of the Hudson is excellent.—Sloops and steam boats of eighty tons ply between Albany and New York, a distance of a hundred and sixty miles. Judge Cooper[1] informs us, that if this canal be executed, an inland voyage may be performed of seventeen hundred miles in length; that the surface of Lake Erie has an elevation of two hundred and eighty feet above the Hudson river at Albany;

[1] *Guide to the Wilderness, or Western Counties of New York, in a Series of Letters addressed to William Sampson, Barrister at Law.*

that the productions of the north-eastern ports of this state, transported to Montreal with those of the countries of Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior, will be carried to New York—the great emporium of this commerce. He further observes, that the banks of this canal will become a carriage road, and one of the most beautiful in the universe.

The route from Geneva, at the outlet of Seneca Lake, to New York, is as follows:—

From Geneva to Oneida Lake	90 miles.
From Oneida Lake to Mohawk Falls . .	109
From Mohawk Falls to Schenectady . .	56
From Schenectady to Albany	15
From Albany to New York	165
In all	435 miles,

of which seventeen only are by land.

Captain Williamson[1] informs us, that he saw a boat in the Sodus Bay, with several families on board, bound to the Spanish settlements on the Illinois river. Some of them who, the preceding year, had visited this country, observed, that they had yet a thousand five hundred miles to sail!

[1] Description of the Genessee Country.

To the route by the Hudson there are three objections :—

1st.—The rivers and water communication between the Lakes are frozen during four or five months in the year.

2d.—A war with Canada, or with the Indians, would necessarily interrupt this trade, for the Hudson river is the natural frontier on the north.

3d.—The merchants at Montreal propose to render the Genessee river navigable, for the purpose of transporting their merchandize up that river, and across the Alleghany mountains, a distance of twenty-five miles, for the supply of the State of Ohio, and western parts of Pensylvania. With this view they have established stores at the mouth of the Genessee river, Sodus Bay, and Otsego, where they advance money on the produce for Montreal, and engage to deliver goods at a cheaper rate than in the Atlantic ports.

The Illinois river is navigable to the distance of four hundred and fifty miles. Between one of its branches and the Chicago river, which empties into Lake Michigan,

there is a portage of two miles. From this portage to the Lake there is a bateaux navigation of sixteen miles. Thus, between New York and New Orleans, a distance of nearly two thousand miles, there are but twenty-eight miles of land carriage [1].

Mr. Jefferson has calculated that from Cayahoga to New York, the distance is eight hundred and twenty-five miles, and five portages; and from the former place to Alexandria, four hundred and twenty-five miles, and but two portages.

The objections against the Mississippi, as the channel of trade for the productions of the western countries, arise from the tediousness and difficulties of its navigation [2], and the dangers of that of the Mexican Gulph.

A trade was carried on, during the late war with England, between Boston and Mexico [3],

[1] Tour through Virginia, in 1808, of which John Caldwell, Esquire, of New York, is said to be the author.

[2] Since the above was written, steam-boats have been successfully employed in the navigation of this river.

[3] Mr. Wells, an intelligent merchant, was the first who embarked in this trade.

by an inland route, of which we have the following account[1]:—

The goods are transported in waggons from Boston to Providence, thence by water through the Sound to Amboy; thence in waggons, and by water, to Philadelphia; thence in waggons to Pittsburg; from this town, by the Ohio and Mississippi, to New Orleans; and thence by land and water carriage to New Spain—a route of surprising extent.

The expense of the transportation of light goods from Boston to Mexico, is stated to be but four and a half per cent. on the cost of the goods at the former place, while the insurance, freight, and other charges, on those sent by the ocean, or coast-wise, amount to thirty or thirty-two per cent.

During a state of war with England, it has been proposed to carry on a trade between the northern ports and New Orleans; and thence to South America; to places on the Isthmus—across the Gulph of Mexico to certain ports of Bresil, and on the Maine.

[1] See a Letter from Mr. Dearborn, Collector of the Port of Boston, to Dr. Mitchell, Member of Congress, who was pleased to transmit a copy to the Author.

MANNERS.

The inhabitants of the district of Columbia are social and hospitable. At Washington, respectable strangers, after the slightest introduction, are invited to dinner, tea, balls, and evening parties. Those at the house of the President of the United States, unite simplicity with the greatest refinement of manners. Tea parties have become very expensive, as not only tea, but coffee, negus, cakes, sweet-meats, iced-creams, wines, and liquors, are often presented; and, in a sultry summer evening, are found too palatable to be refused. In winter, there is a succession of family balls, where all this species of luxury is exhibited.

In the territory of Columbia, women have no reason to complain of the degradation to which they are exposed by the tyrant man. Free and innocent, they go where they please, both before and after marriage, and have no need to have recourse to dissimulation and cunning for their own repose, and that of their husbands.

PECULIAR CUSTOMS[1].

Both sexes, whether on horseback or on foot, wear an umbrella in all seasons: in summer, to keep off the sun-beams; in winter, as a shelter from the rain and snow; in spring and autumn, to intercept the dews of the evening.

Persons of all ranks canter their horses, which movement fatigues the animal, and has an ungraceful appearance.

At dinner, and at tea parties, the ladies sit together, and seldom mix with the gentlemen, whose conversation naturally turns upon political subjects.

In almost all houses, toddy is offered to guests a few minutes before dinner.

Gentlemen wear the hat in a carriage with a lady, as in England.

Any particular attention to a lady is readily construed into an intention of marriage.

Boarders in boarding-houses, or in taverns, sometimes throw off the coat during the heat of summer; and in winter, the shoes, for the

[1] These observations of an intelligent foreigner may amuse the reader.

purpose of warming the feet at the fire—customs which the climate only can excuse.

In summer, invitation to tea parties is made verbally by a servant, the same day the party is given. In winter the invitation is more ceremonious.

The barber arrives on horseback to perform the operation of shaving; and here, as in Europe, he is the organ of all news and scandal.

OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The President and Vice-president of the United States are elected for the term of four years, commencing on the fourth day of March, and necessarily remain at Washington during the session of Congress; but in the recess thereof, they retire to their usual place of residence. The President, when at the seat of government, lives in the house destined for him, which is furnished at the expense of the nation. The Vice-president,

who is president of the senate, has no similar mark of distinction, but lodges at an inn, or private house, at his own expense, like other members of Congress. The yearly salary of the former is twenty-five thousand dollars; that of the latter, five thousand only; but he is not subject to any extraordinary expense, while the President, according to established custom, spends more than his salary in the expenses of his table.

In case of the death, resignation, or removal of the President from office, his powers devolve upon the Vice-president.

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT.

1. The President is commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and also of the militia, when called into actual service.

2. He is authorised to require, when he thinks proper, the written opinion of any of the chief officers of the executive departments, upon any subject which has relation to the duties of their respective offices.

3. Except in cases of impeachment, he is authorised to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States.

4. He is empowered by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, to appoint ambassadors, ministers, and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all military and other officers, whose appointments are not otherwise provided by law. His appointment, or decision, must be approved by two-thirds of the senators present in Congress.

5. He has also power to fill up vacancies during the recess of the senate, which, during the next session, are submitted to their decision.

6. On extraordinary occasions, he may convene or adjourn either or both Houses of Congress.

7. He is authorised by usage, though not by the constitution, to suspend, annul, or revoke the powers of a minister, consul or other officer, without the advice of the senate, and even without giving any reason for such suspension or removal. The President himself, or any other officer of the United States, may be removed from office for treason, bri-

bery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours, for which they must previously be impeached and convicted.

All commissions are signed by the President and Secretary of State.

The national council is composed of these two officers, and the heads of the Treasury, War, Navy, and Post-office establishment.

OF THE CONGRESS.

The Congress of the United States, in whom all legislative powers are vested, consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

The members of the House of Representatives are chosen by the people every second year. They must have attained the age of twenty-five, and been citizens of the United States during the same space of time, and inhabitants of the State in which they are elected. The number of representatives, for the year 1815, is a hundred and eighty-seven, or one representative for every forty thousand persons; when the number shall amount to two

hundred, it is so regulated, that there shall not be more than one for every fifty thousand persons.

Vacancies are filled by writs of election, issued by the executive authority.

The House of Representatives choose their Speaker and other officers, and have the sole power of impeachment.

The Senate is composed of two senators from each State, chosen by the legislature for the term of six years; and the seats are so vacated, that one-third are chosen every second year. A senator must be thirty years of age, nine years a citizen of the United States, and an inhabitant of the State in which he is elected.

The President of the Senate has no vote, unless the votes be equally divided.

The Senate has the sole power of trying all impeachments. In case of trial of the Chief Magistrate, the Chief Justice is to preside.

Senators and members of the House of Representatives receive a compensation of six dollars per day during the session, besides travelling expenses, fixed at the rate of a day's pay for every twenty miles.

JUDICIARY.

The Judiciary consists of a chief justice, an attorney-general, six associate judges, and forty-three district judges.

The salary of the chief-justice is four thousand dollars per annum; that of the associate judges, three thousand five hundred each; that of the district judges, from a thousand to two thousand dollars.

The Supreme Court has a clerk, and district attorney, and marshal in each State. In thirteen of the States there is also a commissioner of loans.

The secretary of the Treasury Department has a salary of five thousand dollars. There are five or six clerks, whose salary is from one to three thousand dollars. The Treasury Department has different divisions or offices; that of the Comptroller, Auditor, Treasurer, Register, and General Land Office. The first has fourteen clerks, whose salary is from seven hundred and fifty to sixteen hundred and fifty dollars. The second, thirteen clerks, whose salary is from six hundred to four-

teen hundred and fifty dollars. The third, four, with a like salary. The fourth, sixteen clerks, with a salary from five hundred to sixteen hundred and ninety; and the last, ten, with a salary from eight hundred to sixteen hundred; besides an allowance for extra services.

The salary of the Secretary of the War Department is four thousand five hundred dollars. The number of clerks is forty-three, with a salary from three hundred and sixty-nine to two thousand dollars each.

The salary of the Secretary of the Navy is four thousand five hundred dollars.

The Post Master General has a salary of two thousand dollars. The number of clerks in this department is eighteen, with a salary from two hundred and thirty-six to sixteen hundred dollars each.

The salary of a Minister Plenipotentiary is nine thousand dollars a year, besides a similar sum for an outfit. The salary of a Secretary of Legation is thirteen hundred and fifty dollars.

American Consuls have no other compensation than the fees of office, and the com-

mercial profits which it procures, except those of the Levant, and at Paris, and London, whose pay is two thousand dollars a year.

In the following Catalogue of Plants, etc. the generic Latin and English names are in Italic; the specific, in Roman print.

ABBREVIATIONS.

L. Linnæus.—Schr. Schreber.—Muhl. Muhlenberg.—W. Wildenow.—M. Michaux.—Ait. Aiton.

FLORULA COLUMBIANA,

Sive enumeratio Plantarum in Territorio Columbiæ sponte nascentium;

OR,

CATALOGUE OF THE PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND TREES, WHICH GROW SPONTANEOUSLY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

THIS Catalogue contains only the specimens which I was able to collect in a few excursions through this district, and consequently is far from being complete. The collection, however, has acquired value, from being examined by the celebrated Botanist, Correa de Serra, to whose generous friendship on this, as on other more important occasions, I feel deeply indebted. The establishment of a Botanical Garden in the District of Columbia, besides the pleasure it would afford to those who cultivate this science, could not fail of being highly advan-

tageous to the medical, veterinary, economical, and manufacturing arts. Of this no one can doubt who has perused the works of Marshal[1], Barton[2], Michaux[3], and Castiglioni[4], in which the properties and uses of the vegetable productions of the United States are particularly explained.

Arum. Indian Turnip. Virginicum. Virginia.

Tawho, or *Tawhill* of the Indians. The roots of the *arum,* when roasted or boiled, lose their acrid taste, and afford an agreeable nutriment. The Indians cover them with a layer of earth, on which a large fire is kept up until they are completely roasted. Hogs are very fond of this root.

Achillea. Yarrow, or Milfoil.

Species injured, and not determined.

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[1] *Arbustum Americanum,* of which a French translation, by *Lezermes,* appeared at Paris, in 1788.

[2] *Collections for a Materia Medica,* etc.

[3] *Histoire des Arbres Forestiers de L'Amerique Septentrionale,* 3 vols. in 8vo. 1813, Paris.

[4] *Osservazioni sui Vegetabili piu utili degli Stati Uniti,* in the second volume of the Author's Travels in the United States—Viaggio negli Stati Uniti dell' America Settentrionale, Milan, 1790.

Acer. Maple Tree. Rubrum, L. Scarlet-flowering, red, or swamp-maple.

In a swampy soil, this species rises to the height of forty or fifty feet. The sap contains a certain quantity of sugar, though much less than the sugar-maple tree (*acer saccharinum*). House furniture is made of the wood, which is often beautifully veined. The bark is employed to dye cloth of a blue colour. This tree, of a middle size and rapid growth, is propagated by slips, and also from the seed, though with more difficulty.

Actœa. Herb Christopher. Racemosa, L. Rich weed, or black snake root.

This plant is employed as a remedy in schirrous humours.

Alnus. Alder. Serrulata, Wild. Common American alder.

This species grows to the height of eight or ten feet, and the largest is from two to three inches in diameter.

Andromeda. Andromeda. Paniculata. Panicled.

This species thrives best in a moist soil, where it rises to the height of five or six feet. The flowers are small, and of a white colour.

Mariana, L. Oval-leaved.

This species, with slender hanging branches, is of a slow growth, and it is difficult to propagate it from the seeds.

Asclepias. Swallow Wort. Tuberosa, L. Pleurisy root, or butterfly weed. — Hybrida, M. variegated.—Debilis, M. slender. Flowers white.——Incarnata, L. Flesh-coloured swallow wort.

Kalm informs us that the Canadians eat the young shoots of the different species. The silky substance which adheres to the seeds, mixed with cotton or wool, is manufactured into cloth, which is found to be durable. Paper, of a good quality, is made of the substance itself, and it is also employed to stuff pillows. The fibrous part of the stalk serves as a substitute for hemp. Sugar may be extracted from the flowers. The root is a powerful sudorific, and is employed for this purpose by the Blacks, who consider it as a cure for all diseases.

Apocynum. Dog's Bane. Cannabinum. Indian hemp. Small yellowish green flowers.

Among some of the savage tribes the down was formerly employed as a substitute for hemp, and was manufactured into nets and bags by the first colonists of New Jersey.

Aster. Star Wort. Marilandicus, Pluk. Maryland. Solidagineus, M. Golden rod.

Anthemis. Chamomile. Arvensis. Wild chamomile, or May weed.

Azalea. Upright Honeysuckle. Viscosa, L. Viscous. Swamp pink of Massachusets. Periclymenoides.

Flowers white, and sweet-scented.

Bartsia. Bartsia. Coccinea, L. Virginia, or scarlet.

Yellow flowers, and scarlet-coloured floral leaves.

Betula. Birch. Lenta, L. Black.—Lutea. Yellow.—Rubra. Red.

The wood of these different species is employed for various uses.

Bignonia. Trumpet Flower. Radicans, L. Virginia jessamine.

Buddleia. Buddleia. Globosa. Globous, or round-headed.

Brachistemum. Virginicum, L. Virginia thyme.

Small white flowers.

Carex. Sedge. Folliculata, L. Follicu-lated.

Cassia. Cassia. Chamæcrista, L. Dwarf cassia, or sensitive pea.

Large flowers, with two purple spots at the bottom. This plant is cultivated, by some of the farmers of Vir-

ginia and Maryland, for the purpose of improving poor lands.

Castanea. Chesnut. Pumila, M. Dwarf chesnut, or chinquapin.

The more ignorant inhabitants of the woods believe that the fruit eaten as food will render barren women prolific. When boiled it is sweet and salutary.

Ceanothus. New Jersey Tea-tree. Americanus. American red twig, or Carolina spiræa. With small white flowers.

During the American revolutionary war, the leaves were employed as a substitute for the tea of China, and it has very much the taste and flavour of the red, or Bohea species. It is still employed as an agreeable beverage by the poorer class of inhabitants of Jersey and Carolina. This plant also affords a dye of a cinnamon colour.

Cephalanthus. Button Wood. Occidentalis. Globe flowering shrub, or pond Dogwood. In Massachusets, button bush. In New York, button-wood.

Flowers white, of a globular form. This shrub, which grows to the height of seven or eight feet, is easily propagated from the seeds and flowers the third year. A decoction of the leaves, applied externally, is said to be good for the palsy[1].

[1] See Drayton's View of South Carolina.

Cercis. Judas Tree, or Red Bud. Canadensis, L. American.

Cratægus. Hawthorn. Coccinea, L. Great American, or Scarlet-fruited hawthorn.—Cordata, *Ait.* Maple-leaved.—Oxyacantha, L. Common white.

The three species are employed for hedges, but the last is generally preferred.

Convallaria. Solomon's Seal. Majalis, L May lilly, or lilly of the valley.

Cornus. Dog-wood. Florida. Dog-wood, cornel, or dog berry-tree.

Flowers greenish yellow. Berries red. The bark is employed as a febrifuge. It grows to the height of ten or twelve feet. The wood has a fine texture, and its charcoal is preferred for the composition of gun-powder. It is full of knots and excrescencies, which are useful in the mechanical arts. The young twigs are straight and smooth, and serve for distaffs.

Chironia. Chironia. Angularis, L. American, or angular-stemmed centaury.

Flowers of a purple red colour. It is employed as a bitter for diseased stomachs.

Coreopsis. Tick-seed Sun Flower. Verticillata, L. Whorl-leaved tick-seed, or sun-flower.

The leaves are sometimes employed by the Indians to make a red dye.

Cerasus. Cherry Tree. Virginiana, M. Virginia cherry tree.

Flowers white; berries red. The wood is employed for furniture, which has a fine appearance.

Cunila. Cunila. Mariana, L. Mint-leaved cunila, or dittany.

Flowers red. A decoction of this plant is employed for colds and coughs.

Chionanthus. Fringe Tree. Virginica, L. Snow-drop, fringe, or paper-tree.

It grows to the height of ten or twelve feet. The whiteness, and hanging position of its flowers, render it a great ornament.

Cactus. Cactus. Opuntia, L. Prickly pear, or common Indian fig.

Flowers yellow. The berries, of a bright red, are eaten by children.

Dactylis. Cock's-foot Grass. Glomerata, L. Orchard, or round-headed cock's-foot grass.

This grass is supposed to be of European origin. It serves as an emetic for dogs and cats.

Daucus. Carrot. Sylvestris, L. Wild carrot.

Diospyros. Persimon. Virginiana, L. Virginia persimon-tree, or medlar, or date plum.

Flowers pale yellow. Fruit of a bright yellow. A fine liquor is distilled from the ripe fruit, which is also employed to make beer. Mixed with flour, it gives an agreeable taste to bread. The juice of the unripe fruit is preferred to oak-bark for the purpose of tanning. In some places the inner bark of the persimon-tree is eaten with potatoes; and an infusion, or decoction, is employed as a gargle for a sore throat.

Evonymus. Spindle Tree. Americanus, L. American spindle-tree, or burning-bush.

Euphorbia. Spurge. Corrollata, L. Coral-stalked spurge.—Hypericifolia. St. John's wort leaved.

Echium. Viper's Bugloss.

Species injured, and not determined.

Erysimum. Hedge Mustard. Officinale, L. Domestic mustard.

Flowers yellow, small. The seeds have a diuretic quality.

Erigeron. Erigeron, or Flea-bane. Philadelphicum, L. Sweet, or spreading flea-bane.

The rays of the petals are of a fine blue colour. This plant is employed as a remedy in calculous and nephritic disorders.

Fagus. Beach. Fagus Pumila. Chinquapin.

Fraxinus. Ash. Americana, or latifolia. Red, or American ash.

The wood of this tree, which grows to the height of thirty or forty feet, is employed for different purposes, and especially for carriage-wheels. The seeds and inner bark are diuretic.

Gleditzia. Monosperma. Water-locust.—Triacanthos. Honey, or sweet locust.

The wood of both species is of an inferior quality.

Gnaphalium. Cudweed, or Life-everlasting. Dioicum, L. Common.

Geranium. *Geranium.* Carolinianum, L. Carolinian geranium.

Flowers small, and white with red veins.

Hypericum. *St. John's Wort.* *Perforatum*, L. Common.

A very pernicious wood, which is said to be injurious to horses and cows.

Houstonia. *Houstonia.* Varians, M.—Linnæi, M.

Justicia. *Justicia.* Pedunculosa, L. Pedunculated water-willow.

Kalmia. *Kalmia.* Latifolia, L. Broad-leaved laurel, calico-bush, or spoon-tree of Jersey.

The flowers, of a pale red colour, have a fine appearance in May. The wood, of a yellow colour, is employed for various purposes. The leaves are poisonous to cows and horses, but not to goats and deer.

Juglans. *Walnut, or Hickory.* Nigra, L. Black.—Cathartica, M. White, or butternut.

Both species attain the height of forty or fifty feet. Their wood is valuable in the mechanical arts. The fruit of the former has an agreeable taste. A decoction

of the bark of the latter is found to be an excellent cathartic[1].

Juniperus. Cedar. Virginiana. Red cedar.

This tree, of a slow growth, grows to the height of twenty or thirty feet. The wood is very durable, and is employed for various purposes, particularly for ship-building.

Liquidambar. Sweet Gum. Styraciflua, L. Maple-leaved.

The wood is employed for different purposes, though very inferior in quality to the black walnut, cherry-tree, etc.

Leonurus. Mother-wort. Cardiaca, L. Common mother-wort.

Lobelia. Lobelia. Kalmii, L. Kalm's.—Inflata, L. Inflated.

Both species have small blue flowers. This plant is found to have great influence in syphilitic disorders.

Linum. Flax. Virginianum, L. Virginia flax.

Small yellow flowers.

[1] See Histoire des Arbres Forestiers de L'Amerique Septentrionale, par *Michaux*, vol. I. p. 171.

Lilium. Lily. Canadense, L. Canadian lily.

Laurus. Laurel, or Bay tree. Sassafras, L. Common.

Flowers yellow; berries blue. The wood is light, but durable. Its medical properties are well known.

Liriodendron. Tulip-tree. Tulipifera, L. White wood, or white poplar.

Leontodon. Dandelion. Taraxacum, L. Common.

Flowers yellow.

Lythrum. Willow Herb. Hyssopifolia, L. Hyssop-leaved willow-herb.

Lysimachia. Lysimachia. Ciliata, L. Ciliated.

Malus. Coronaria, L. Crab apple tree.

Melissa. Balm. Species not determined.

Mespilus. Medlar. Canadensis, L. Canadian medlar.

Fruit black—of an agreeable taste.

Melia. Bead-tree. Azadriachta, L. Common bead tree, or pride of China.

Monarda. Monarda, or Mountain Mint. Punctata, L. Yellow-flowered horse or mountain mint.

Flowers yellow, punctated.

Malva. Mallow. Rotundifolia, L. Round-leaved mallow.

Small white flowers.

Magnolia. Magnolia. Glauca, L. Swamp magnolia, or beaver-tree.

Nepeta. Catmint, or Catnep. Cataria, L. Common cat mint.

White flowers—medicinal.

Nymphœa. Water Lily. Advena, Ait. Striped-flowered water lily.

Flowers yellow; leaves upright.

Œnothera. Tree Primrose. Linearis, M. Linear.—Hybrida, M. Hybrid.

Oxalis. Wood Sorrel. Stricta, M. Upright Virginia wood sorrel.

Yellow flowers.

Corniculata, M. Procumbent sorrel.

Yellow flowers.

Pontederia. *Pontederia.* Cordata, L. Heart-leaved pontederia.

Potamogeton. *Pond Weed.* Perfoliatum, L. Perfoliated pond weed.

Brownish flowers.

Penstemon. *Penstemon.* Pubescens, Ait. Purple.

Potentilla. *Cinquefoil.* Canadensis, L. Canadian cinquefoil.

Flowers bright yellow.

Podalyria. *Wild Indigo.* Tinctoria, M. Dyer's wild indigo.

Pothos. *Pothos.* Fœtida, Ait. Skunk-weed, or skunk-cabbage.

Polygonum. *Persicaria.* Convolvulus, L. Blackbind weed.—Persicaria, L. Spotted, or lady's thumb.

Rose-coloured flowers; leaves marked with a black crescent.

Prunella. Self-heal. Vulgaris, L. Common self-heal.

Flowers violet purple colour.

Phlox. Lychneida. Latifolia, M. Broad-leaved phlox, or lychneida.—Subulata, M. Awl-shaped.

Podophyllum. Duck's Foot, or May Apple.—Peltatum, L. Peltated May-apple.

Flowers white. The fruit, of the size of a plum, is eatable. The root is sometimes used as an emetic.

Pyrus. Pear, or Apple. Malus angustifolia, L. Narrow-leaved apple tree.

The fruit is employed as a preserve.

Quercus. Oak. Phellos, L. Willow-leaved.—Prinus. Chincapin, M. Small chesnut.—Ferruginea, M. Black Jack, or barren oak.

The wood of the first is very inferior to that of the other species. The two last mentioned are mere shrubs, and employed for fuel.

Rhus. Sumach. Toxicodendron, L. Poison oak, or poison vine.—Vernix, L. Poison ash, or varnish tree.

The touch of this shrub creates fever, accompanied with an eruption over the whole body, which is more

or less violent according to the temperament of the individual. The varnish-tree derives its name from the varnish for wood which is extracted from its juice.

Rumex. Dock. Acetolessa, L. Sheep sorrel dock.

Rubus. Bramble. Odoratus, L. Canadian raspberry.

Flowers rose-coloured. Berries of a fine colour.

Scirpus. Club Rush. Maritimus macrostachius, M. Large spiked club-rush. Lacustris, L. Bull-rush.

Sisyrinchium. Sisyrinchium. Mucronatum, L. Sharp-pointed sisyrinchium, or blue-eyed grass.—Bermudiana, L. Bermudian.

Flowers of a fine blue colour.

Saururus. Lizard's Tail. Cernuus, L. Nodding.

Scuttellaria. Scull Cap. Parvula, M. Small.

Flowers of a pale blue colour.

Stylosanthes. Hispida, M.

Saponaria. Soap Wort. Officinalis, L. Common.

Flowers white.

Spiræa. Spiræa, or Meadow-sweet. Salicifolia, L. Willow-leaved. — Vernonia, Schr.—Novæ Boracensis, M. New York.

Salix. Willow. Caroliniana, M. Carolinian, or Nigra.—Muhl. Black willow.

Scirpus. Club-rush. Sylvaticus, L. Wood club-rush.—Spathaceus, M.

Silene. Catchfly. Pensylvanica, M. Pensylvania catch-fly,

Flowers purple.

Sophora. Sophora. Tinctoria, L. Dyer's Sophora.

Saxifraga. Saxifrage. Virginiana, M. Virginian.

Flowers white.

Typha. Cat's tail, or Reed Mace. Angustifolia, L. Narrow-leaved.

Trillium. Trillium. Rhomboideum, M. Upright-flowered true love, or night shade. Varium, I. Lesser.

Trifolium. Clover, or Trefoil. Reflexum, L. Bent trefoil.—Arvense, L. Field-clover, or hare's-foot.—Agrarium L.
Small white flowers, marked with a red spot.

Veratrum. Hellebore. Album. White.
Flowers greenish yellow.

Vaccinium. Whortleberry. Galezans, M.
Flowers yellowish white. Berries black, globular.

Stamineum. Long-leaved, or green-wooded.
Flowers white. Berries whitish.

Viola. Violet. Pedata, L. Multified.
Large blue flowers.

Verbena. Vervain. Officinalis, L. Common.

Zea. Maize, or Indian Corn. Mays, L. Common.

Mr. Jefferson, in his "*Notes on Virginia*," has given a list of more than a hundred birds, inhabitants of that region, most of which are probably common to the District of Columbia; but this we were unable to ascertain, having seen the following only — thirty-two in number. The names are those employed by Wilson, in his "*Ornithology of the United States*[1]," a work which does great honour to the author, and to the country of which he was an adopted citizen.

Anas Canadensis.....	*Canada Goose.*
—— Sponsa	*Summer Duck.*
—— Valisneria	*Canvas-back Duck, or White Back.*
—— Ferina	*Red-headed Duck.*
Alauda Magna	*Meadow Lark.*
——— Alpestris	*Shore Lark.*
Columba Migratoria	*Passenger Pigeon.*
Corvus Cristatus	*Blue Jay.*
Caprimulgus Americanus..	*Night Hawk.*
——— Vociferus....	*Whip poor Will.*
Fringilla Tristis	*Yellow Bird, or Goldfinch.*
——— Cyanea	*Indigo Bird.*
——— Rufa	*Fox-coloured Sparrow.*
Falco Pensylvanicus	*Slate-coloured Hawk.*
Hirundo Americana	*Barn Swallow.*
Lanius Carolinensis	*Logger-head Shrike.*

[1] In nine volumes in 4to, with beautiful engravings.

Oriolus Baltimore ..... *Baltimore Oriole.*
——— Mutatus ..... *Orchard Oriole.*
Picus Auratus ..... *Gold-winged Woodpecker.*
Rallus Virginianus ..... *Virginian Rail.*
Strix Virginiana ..... *Great Horned Owl.*
—— Nyctea ..... *Snow Owl.*
Scolopax Semipalmata .... *Semipalmated Snipe.*
Sylvia Sialis..... *Blue Bird.*
——— Marilandica ..... *Maryland Yellow-throat.*
——— Coronata ..... *Yellow-rump Warbler.*
Sturnus Predatorius ..... *Red-winged Starling.*
Turdus Migratorius..... *Robin.*
——— Polyglottus ..... *Mocking Bird.*
——— Lividus ..... *Cat Bird.*
Tetrao Virginianus..... *Virginian Rail.*
Trochilus Colubris ..... *Humming Bird.*

OF INSECTS.

Of our collection of insects, there remain in a state of preservation but five species of the genus *Papilio*, or butterfly which, however, are the most common in this District.

Papilio cardui.	*Fabr.*
——— *plexippus.*	*Cram.*
——— *polydamos.*	*ditto.*
——— *astinous.*	*ditto.*
——— *Tyrrhea.*	*Fabr.*

FINIS.

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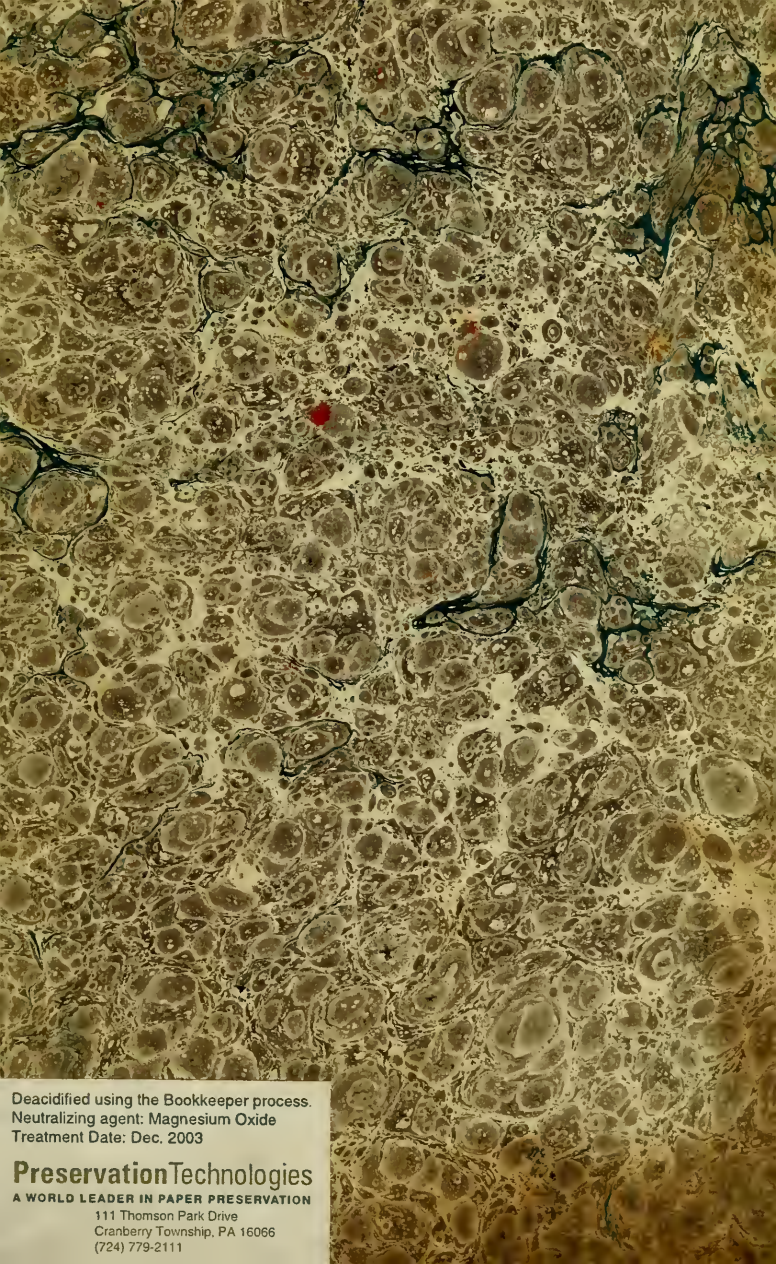

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